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VANCOUVER • THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2008 metronews.ca

Holiday Guide

Gifts, gifts and more gifts

pg 25-35

Celebrity Buzz

K-Fed one that split: Spears

pg 38

Accents not B.C.'s concern: Group

Immigrants should pay for own language coaching, says taxpayers bloc

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

The government should not pay for immigrants to take courses that help them lose their accents, according to the Canadian Taxpayers' Federation.

But one local immigrant's services organization says the courses help newcomers get and retain much-needed work.

Arrive B.C., a skills connect program funded by the province, is one of several organizations sending clients to L2 Accent Reduction Centre in Vancouver.

Sessions cost about $75 an hour and last from 10 to 20 sessions, which is expensive for some immigrants or people trying to find work.

"A lot of (our clients) get their programs paid for," said Jennifer Madigan, director of the centre.

"The agencies we work with have the government resources to help people find work. And they can justify spending money on their clients improving their communication skills."

> **"When people detect a strong accent, they automatically assume (the speaker) doesn't know much English, which often isn't the case."** Randy Wong

Alexei Bobyrev, a Russian immigrant who works for Ballard Power, said that the course helped him dramatically at work.

"People no longer give me a confused look at work when I'm trying to explain something," he said.

Randy Wong, CEO of Canada Social Enterprises Inc., a subsidiary of immigrants' assistance organization SUCCESS — which has similar courses — said subsidized accent-reduction classes are a good idea.

"When people detect a strong accent, they automatically assume (the speaker) doesn't know much English, which often isn't the case," he said.

Wong said being better understood at work opens doors for newcomers.

But Maureen Bader, B.C. director with the Canadian Taxpayers' Federation in Vancouver, said the public shouldn't be paying for people to take accent coaching.

"(L2) is a good example of a well-intentioned program that shouldn't be funded by taxpayers," she said. "If a person believes they'd benefit from accent coaching, they should pay for it themselves."

ShareYourViews
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Mumbai terror attacks kill at least 101

Gunfire rang out as commandos and armed police laid siege to gunmen holding foreigners hostage in two of the plushest hotels in India's commercial capital this morning, after attacks that killed at least 101 people.

Scores of tourists remained trapped in the Taj Mahal hotel and the five-star Trident Oberoi in Mumbai's downtown peninsula, officials said. It was reported today that there could be between 100 and 200 guests and workers trapped in the Trident-Oberoi, with 10 to 12 militants also inside.

According to the Canadian government, there were no reports of Canadians killed or wounded.

Small groups of militants armed with automatic weapons and grenades burst into the hotels, a hospital and a railway station late yesterday, as well as a café popular with tourists, firing and tossing grenades.

The attackers appeared to target British and Americans as they sought hostages before settling in for a prolonged siege. REUTERS

MORE COVERAGE PAGE 6

ARKO DATTA/REUTERS

A reporter talks on her phone as plumes of smoke rise from the top of the Taj Hotel in Mumbai, India. Heavy firing could be heard and local television reported that unknown assailants had earlier attacked the hotel. At least six of the reported dead are foreigners.

City's Indian community in shock over attacks

Vancouver's Indian community is in shock as details of the deadly attacks in Mumbai — which have left at least 101 people dead and 287 injured — unfold.

Harpreet Singh, a talk-show host who is covering the story for Radio India in Surrey, said people are "scrambling (to) talk with friends and relatives in Mumbai."

"A friend of mine in Surrey, his brother-in-law's daughter was killed in the hotel. She was one of the first killed," he said.

Singh said there are no plans yet for local fundraising efforts because the events are still unfolding.

"People are still waiting and watching," he said. "People are glued to the television sets.

"We've got lots of calls from people wanting more information. It's awful. This is unprecedented and is being condemned by one and all." KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER

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Man who faked own death being charged by RCMP in B.C.
A man who faked his own death — fooling even his family — is being charged by RCMP in B.C. after he was arrested alive and well in Newfoundland. Bruce Leyte, 57, two years ago left a suicide note in an abandoned truck near a river after he was found guilty of tax evasion and ordered to pay $60,000. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Happy Birthday Miga, Quatchi & Sumi

Vancouver's 2010 mascots Miga, Quatchi and Sumi, left, are celebrating their first birthday today. There will be family-oriented birthday celebrations this weekend and the introduction of a new line of mascot-related merchandise. METRO VANCOUVER

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION weekdays at 6 | Citytv ROGERS

Divers pulled from Whytecliff waters

ACCIDENTS Police are asking scuba divers to be extra cautious after two men were pulled from West Vancouver waters unconscious in separate incidents. One of the men later died.

Cpl. Fred Harding said a diver was pulled lifeless from Whytecliff Park waters on Sunday by a diver in his team. A week earlier, on Nov. 15, a diver was pulled unconscious from the same waters. That diver is expected to recover.

METRO VANCOUVER

metronews.ca
What's online today.
Watch witnesses react to the deadly collapse of a Montreal parkade at metronews.ca/canada
Watch sealers outraged at report into fatal capsizing at metronews.ca/canada

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49	11, 33, 34, 42, 43 & 48 Bonus 07
BC 49	8, 12, 16, 28, 33 & 46 Bonus 3
Extra	31, 65, 82, 96

These results are not official.

Radiothon Media unite for Canuck Place

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Metro Vancouver is joining media from around the lower mainland today for a fundraiser for Canuck Place. From left, back row; Dave Brindle, TALK 1410; Mark Driesschen, CTV; Perry Solkowski, CTV; Bob Marjanovitch, TEAM 1040; Jason Pires, CTV. Front row, from left; Olga Edwards, Metro Vancouver; Maryse Lalonde, Metro Vancouver; Rena Heer, CTV; Nikki Renshaw, TALK 1410.

NDP urges action on 200 empty homes

C10DATELINE Delays that have led to more than 200 homes sitting empty at the Little Mountain housing project prompted the provincial NDP to call on Victoria to take action.

NDP homeless critic Jenny Kwan said the homes are needed to alleviate the homeless crisis in Vancouver.

"The families have been evicted, the homes are sitting empty, and this delayed redevelopment isn't going to begin until 2011, if it starts at all," Kwan said.

She added that there are questions about whether the development will be completed in light of the global economic crisis.

METRO VANCOUVER

Man killed in shooting

Another man severely injured

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

One man is dead and another in hospital in serious condition after a double shooting at a Surrey strip mall, police said yesterday.

On Tuesday night, the RCMP were called to the Sun Hang Do martial arts studio near King George Highway and 100th Avenue.

Police found a man dead in the driver's side of a vehicle and another man nearby "in severe medical distress," Cpl. Dale Carr said.

The injured man, who police will only say was Vietnamese and known to them, was taken to hospital for surgery and remains in serious condition. The deceased victim has not been identified, but is thought to be an adult Asian male.

"The investigation to date has not established any link whatsoever to the Sun Hang Do martial arts studio," said Carr. "Investigators are still establishing the purpose of the victims being at the strip mall."

Investigation

- Investigators haven't determined if it was a targeted attack, police said.

News in brief

GAMES Vancouver is putting together a plan to deal with potential emergencies during the 2010 Winter Olympics. Everything from natural disasters to communication breakdowns are being looked at by staff.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Environmentalists want investigation

The B.C. government is breaking Canadian law by apparently failing to identify and protect the habitat of endangered species, according to the Western Canadian Wilderness Committee. Environmentalists submitted a petition to B.C.'s auditor general asking for an investigation. **METRO VANCOUVER**

9-1-1 TIP OF THE DAY

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Meteor sighting

ETHAN ROTBERG
for Metro Vancouver

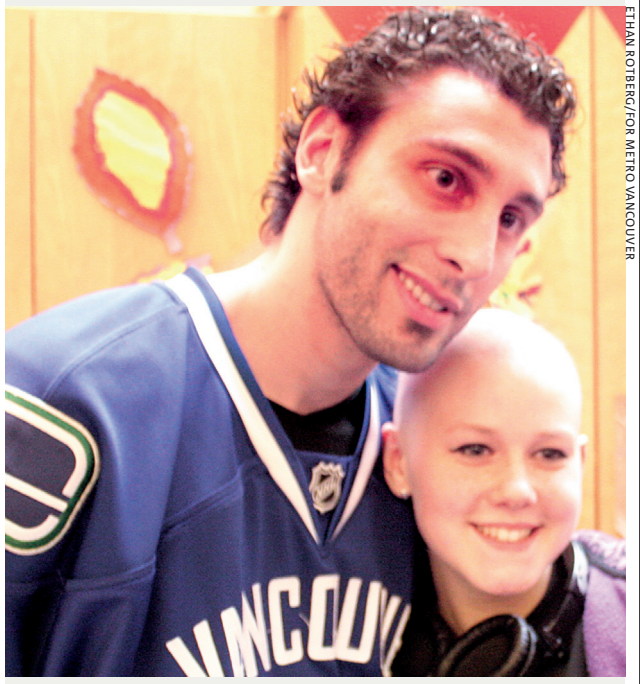
Several people across B.C. were treated to an amazing light show late Tuesday afternoon when what appeared to be a meteor shot across the twilight sky.

Witnesses in the Vancouver area say they saw it blaze through the sky around 4:35 p.m. for about one or two seconds, CBC News Online reports.

Scientists said while it could have been a falling satellite, it was more likely a meteor because it was reported across such a wide range, from Victoria all the way to Prince George.

This sighting comes only days after a bright meteor blazed across the Alberta and Saskatchewan sky, which sparked a meteorite hunt and a $10,000 reward.

Canucks **Holiday spirit**



ETHAN ROTBERG/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Canucks captain Roberto Luongo meets Chelsea at B.C. Children's Hospital yesterday. Severa Canucks were there as part of a yearly tradition to distribute gifts and sign autographs for the children and families to help brighten their holidays.

Vancouver man named Games' chief therapist

2010 A Vancouver man was announced as the chief therapist for the Canadian team at the 2010 Olympics yesterday.

Marc Rizzardo was the chief therapist for the Canadian Olympic Committee at the 2007 Pan American Games and a member of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Health and Science Team.

Working alongside chief medical officer Bob McCormack, he'll help manage and supervise all healthcare support services provided to Canadian athletes during the Games.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER 2010 **Games**

News in brief

THEFT Vancouver police are lauding a quick-thinking Good Samaritan for helping catch an attempted purse-snatcher. Albert Joseph Lambert, 46, of Surrey, was arrested.

EMPLOYMENT Six residents in the Downtown Eastside got job offers this month from Hudson's Bay Co. after completing a three-week pilot customer-service training program.

FRAUD E-mails that "give the impression" they are from the RCMP have been circulating on the Internet. The RCMP advised it never solicits donations online. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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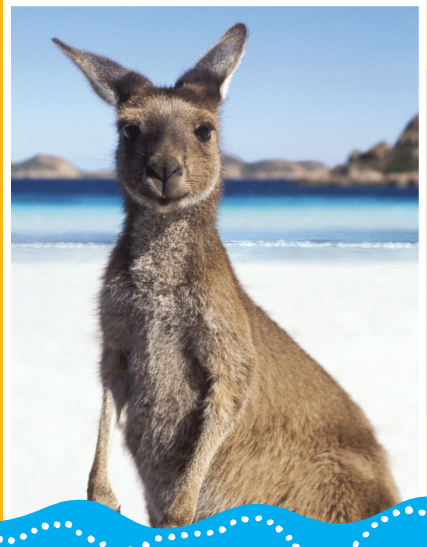

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Looting taking place in flood aftermath in Brazil

Brazil sent hundreds of state and federal police officers yesterday to quell looting by homeless and hungry landslide victims facing the threat of disease after heavy flooding that authorities say killed more than 100 people and displaced 54,000. REUTERS

Canada/World

More troops off to Afghanistan

MILITARY Canada is sending 250 more military personnel to Afghanistan, an increase of 10 per cent, to help deploy helicopters and drones in the country, a Defence Department spokesman said yesterday.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay said eight Griffon helicopters would be sent to Afghanistan early next year to act as escort aircraft for recently acquired Chinook medium- to heavy-lift choppers. Canada is also taking delivery of unmanned aerial vehicles to help with reconnaissance.

MacKay spokesman Dan Dugas said the aerial deployment would increase the number of Canadian Forces personnel to 2,750 from 2,500. REUTERS

Pullout

- Stockwell Day said Canada was in Afghanistan at the invitation of government, and would remain until its troops are scheduled to pull out in 2011.

Twitchell skips court, entering plea

MURDER CHARGE Those following the disappearance of 38-year-old Johnny Altinger will have to wait another week before the man accused of murder in the case enters a plea.

Indie filmmaker Mark Twitchell was not present as scheduled in provincial court yesterday, and instead was represented by a representative of his lawyer, David Cunningham. Twitchell's next court date is Dec. 3.

Police have seized his car, a red Pontiac Grand Am sporting the licence plate DRK JEDI, and continue to look for anyone who may have seen it between Oct. 14 and Oct. 19.

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES / METRO CANADA

News in brief

FUNDING The Tories, fending off complaints from home and abroad that they are moving too slowly on a stimulus package for the economy, said yesterday they would probably deliver their economic boost faster than the United States planned stimulus.

MEXICO Relatives of a Calgary man killed along with his fiancé during a Mexican vacation are waiting to learn how the pair drowned while walking along an Acapulco beach. Acapulco police said their bodies were later found washed ashore. REUTERS

MySpace mom guilty

Could face up to three years in jail, but cleared of felonies

A suburban mother who prosecutors say drove a love-struck 13-year-old girl to suicide by tormenting her with a fake MySpace persona was acquitted yesterday of the most serious charges against her.

Lori Drew was found guilty of three misdemeanor counts in the high-profile case, which made worldwide headlines and prompted calls for social networking sites like MySpace to crack down on such activities.

She was cleared of three felonies by the U.S. District Court jury, which deadlocked on a fourth count of conspiracy.

Drew, who created the fake profile after her daughter and neighbour Megan Meier had a falling out, showed no reaction as the verdicts were read.

Drew will face a sentence ranging from probation to three years behind bars for the misdemeanor convictions. She could have been sent to federal prison for up to 20 years if she had been convicted on the felony charges.

Prosecutors say Drew and others created the persona of a 16-year-old boy to woo Meier for several weeks, then abruptly ended the relationship and said the world would be better off without her. Meier hanged herself in October 2006, just hours after she had read those final messages.

Juror Shirley Hanley told Reuters Drew was cleared of the more serious charges because they could not be sure who typed the MySpace messages. REUTERS

MARIO ANZUONI/REUTERS

Tina Meier, mother of Megan Meier, speaks at a news conference in Los Angeles yesterday. Lori Drew was convicted of three misdemeanor federal charges for helping create a fake MySpace account and tormenting Megan Meier, a 13-year-old girl, who wound up committing suicide.

U.S. condemns Mumbai attacks

INDIA The White House and president-elect Barack Obama yesterday condemned the deadly attacks in Mumbai, India, as the U.S. government convened defence and intelligence officials and offered help to Indian authorities.

"President Bush offers his condolences to the Indian people and the families of the innocent civilians killed and injured in the attacks in Mumbai," the White House said in a statement issued after the U.S. leader left for the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland for the Thanksgiving holiday.

It said the White House National Security Council had convened officials from counterterrorism and intelligence agencies as well as the State Department and Pentagon to discuss the Mumbai attacks.

"The U.S. government continues to monitor the situation, including the safety and security of our citizens, and stands ready to assist and support the Indian government," the White House said. REUTERS

Hostages

- Indian television reported that Western hostages were being held in two five-star hotels where gunmen had carried out co-ordinated strikes.

News in brief

PIRACY The Somali pirate ship that the Indian Navy sank in the Gulf of Aden last week was actually a Thai ship carrying fishing equipment that was being hijacked, an anti-piracy watchdog said.

TERRORISM U.S. authorities have warned of a possible al-Qaida threat to transit systems in and around New York City, a Homeland Security official said yesterday. New York police said they were increasing security in response. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

No second chances

Paul Martin should not lead Liberals despite calls for support

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

Could the next leader of the Liberal Party of Canada be the one before the last one? Could it be Paul Martin?

Sheila Copps, the former deputy prime minister, reports that some Liberals are dreaming of a "Draft Martin" movement. They believe that the three declared leadership contenders lack Martin's economic experience.

With the economy in recession and the budget in deficit, she writes, a former finance minister who balanced the budget and presided over a surging economy may emerge as the man on horseback. At least that's the hope.

"Some Martinites … are rallying to the former finance minister to save the day and deliver 'the natural governing party' back where it belongs, in power," she writes in The Hill Times.

An intriguing idea. After all, Martin has just published his memoir, giving him the opportunity to reintroduce and reinvent himself. Predictably, he is reminding Canadians of his exemplary economic stewardship.

Martin can take some proprietary pride, for example, in the recent gathering of the leaders of leading industrialized countries. He proposed a broader organization of nations in a ghost-written article a few years ago in Foreign Affairs, the organ of the American foreign policy establishment.

So here we have an economic crisis, a leadership contest and a former politician who may be out of politics — he gave up his seat in the last election — but not out of ambition. Does all that mean Martin Redux? A triumphant return from exile in Elba?

Hardly. The success of a Draft Martin movement is as likely as Stephen Harper becoming the Dalai Lama.

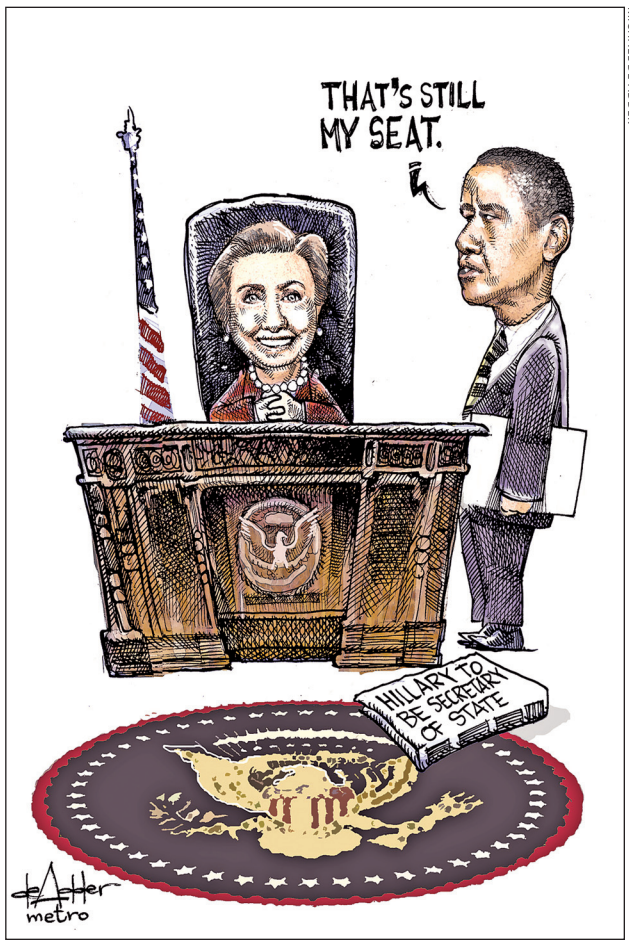
Paul Martin

It's true that Martin was among the most successful finance ministers in our history. He inherited a ruinous situation, slew the deficit, cut taxes and laid the groundwork for the dazzling growth of the next decade.

But he was a better finance minister than he was a prime minister, where he rose to a new level of indecision and ineptitude. Politically, he had mounted a coup d'état against Jean Chrétien, who had won three majorities. He offered none of his rivals — including Copps and John Manley — a place in his cabinet. Then he tried to unseat those Liberals who opposed him, including Copps.

This civil war weakened the party. Martin lost his majority in 2004 and lost power in 2006. He deserved what he got and he won't get a second chance. Politics doesn't work that way.

Andrew Cohen, a professor and journalist, is the author of Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

No one's safe from identity thieves

Michael Shepherd

We all have heard about identify theft, but most of us think it will never happen to us — until it does. According to a CBC article last year, one in six Canadians have been victims of identify theft. It is the fastest growing white-collar crime in both Canada and the U.S., with losses in the U.S. amounting to over $5 billion. I'll refrain from comparing this to the recent financial meltdown on Wall Street.

As a computer scientist of many years, I thought I was fairly safe. I have firewalls on my computers, I rarely buy anything online, and I change my passwords frequently. But it was a paper transaction with a credit card that did me in.

My wife was in Sweden last spring and used a credit card that we seldom use. A month later, the bill came with a $46 Canadian transaction on it, to a genealogy company we didn't recognize.

This was the "test" transaction by the people stealing my identity, checking to make sure the card was valid. The fraudsters were probably doing research that would allow them to steal my identity.

Luckily, a week later I called the credit-card company to complain about junk mail. During the process of trying to register my complaint, they had to verify my identity. Now there was a long pause at the other end, followed by "Are you sure you don't live on St. Clair East in Toronto?" The thieves had put my credit-card number together with personal information easily available on the web, to gain online access to the credit card company and change the information on my file.

According to a CBC article, one in six Canadians have been victims of identity theft.

I nipped this one in the bud and was not liable for the charges the thieves had rung up since the test transaction. But the problem is that such companies report all changes in your personal data to the credit bureaus — so three major credit bureaus now thought I lived in Toronto.

This was like opening Pandora's box. After a lot of angst and a lot of work, we were able to correct the information on file with the various agencies and put fraud alerts on all of our accounts. Still, some of the false information is out there and we are waiting for the next instalment.

The following site and the sites it links to have helpful hints for protecting yourself: *www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/scams/identity_theft_e.htm*

Michael Shepherd is the dean of the Faculty of Computer Science at Dalhousie University.

Letters

Student body's take on cystic fibrosis appalling

Re: CF not diverse enough: Group, Nov. 26.

I was appalled by Carleton University Students' Association's decision on an annual fundraiser for cystic fibrosis. My first thought was how ignorant. The second thought was about my family.

My father was the president of the Kinsman Club in P.E.I. in the 1960s. He was one of the pioneers of the shoeshine drive. My brother and sister both had cystic fibrosis. My mother recently passed away this year and she left $5,000 for the CF Foundation in her will. She would be turning in her grave if she saw the story.

LESLIE MILLAR
DARTMOUTH, N.S.

Sarah Palin gives feminism a new twist

With all due respect, Andrew Cohen is in error when he characterizes Sarah Palin as "anti-feminist." In fact, she is the new face of feminism. Hillary's generation focused on breaking glass ceilings regarding career and sexual reproductive choices. The younger Palin-age group is pro-life, pro-family and pro-woman, all by choice.

RICARDO DI CECCA
BURLINGTON, ONT.

Throne speech cartoon funny, not racist

Re: Canadian economy may be scary, but cartoon wasn't, Nov. 26.

The Nov. 20 cartoon of Michaëlle Jean was certainly not racist. It was mocking the throne speech that she delivered the day before, in which she presented a gloomy forecast for the economy. I think the cartoonist would have created a similar image no matter who the governor general was at the time. I found this cartoon quite humorous.

CHRIS A JOHNSTON
HALIFAX

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Squamish
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Mexico proposes coin shrinkage

Mexico wants to shrink the size of some of its coins and use stainless steel to make them instead of copper, zinc and nickel alloys, which have hit record prices in recent months. The use of metal coins has increased by about six per cent annually. **REUTERS**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Daimler, Cerberus spar over Chrysler

AUTOS Private equity firm Cerberus has demanded more than $7 billion US from Daimler AG over losses that followed its 2007 acquisition of Chrysler LLC in a bitter dispute that could overshadow a plea for financial assistance from the U.S. government for Chrysler.

The extraordinary claim, which was dismissed as baseless by the German automaker, amounts to a demand for more than a full rebate for the amount Cerberus Capital Management paid in its troubled deal for Chrysler just over a year ago.

REUTERS

Retail woes **Out of business**

MIKE SEGAR/REUTERS

Two workers stand with Going Out of Business sale signs last week in front of the Linens n Things store that is closing in a New Jersey strip mall. Shopping centres such as strip malls are reporting vacancy rates of 9.4 per cent, while larger, enclosed malls are faring better, with vacancy rates of about 3.9 per cent.

BCE deal not in the cards

The $52 billion purchase of BCE Inc. looks destined to die with a whimper — or more likely a sigh of relief — after an accounting firm said it was unlikely to sign off on a so-called "solvency test" needed to complete the transaction.

After navigating a year-long storm of high-profile legal challenges and market crises, the world's biggest-ever leveraged buyout found itself thrown on the rocks yesterday after KPMG said it was unlikely to deliver "an opinion that BCE would meet the solvency tests" by the deal's Dec. 11 deadline.

The Bell Canada parent said it was "disappointed" with the assessment and was reviewing the methodology used.

But amid a backdrop of a looming global recession, there was little optimism that the buyers would also be pressing KPMG to change its mind given they can now bow out gracefully without paying the deal's hefty $1.2 billion break fee.

"Given market conditions, most of the protagonists in this might be just as happy to see the deal not done."
Thomas Caldwell

"My sense is that, given market conditions, most of the protagonists in this might be just as happy to see the deal not done," said Thomas Caldwell, the chair of Caldwell Financial Ltd.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In **brief**

ECONOMY China cut interest rates by the biggest margin in 11 years and the European Union plotted a 200-billion euro stimulus plan in the latest moves aimed at jolting the world out of its economic slowdown.

REUTERS

Magna eyes entertainment unit spinoff

STRONACH Auto-parts magnate Frank Stronach will take direct control of Magna Entertainment Corp. under a complex plan announced by the struggling racetrack operator and its parent company yesterday.

Stronach controls the boards of both Magna Entertainment and MI Developments, MEC's controlling shareholder and the real estate arm of Magna International.

MID's minority shareholders have long called for the company to split from the money-losing Magna Entertainment. Past plans, however, have been sunk by infighting and legal wrangling among shareholders.

REUTERS

3x POINTS
on PC products in-store
see centre spread

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Silicon Valley starts to feel the sting of layoffs

The economic slowdown has finally begun to hit home in Silicon Valley, with tech companies shedding jobs in advance of what is widely expected to be a difficult year — just like when the Internet bubble exploded in 2001 and 2002. REUTERS

U.S. dumps test on cigarette tar, nicotine

Cigarette makers will no longer be able to use government guidance from 1966 to argue that U.S. authorities view cigarettes with less tar and nicotine as safer.

The Federal Trade Commission said yesterday it voted 4-0 to rescind its guidance, which had allowed tobacco companies to put tar and nicotine figures on cigarette packages derived from the Cambridge Filter Method.

Ruling

- U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler ruled in 2006 that tobacco firms had violated federal racketeering law and ordered them to cease using expressions such as "low tar" or "light"

The agency said the numbers were misleading because smokers tend to inhale more deeply when they smoke cigarettes with less tar and nicotine.

The commission declined to weigh in on whether it would oppose the use of terms like "light" and "ultra low," saying that the Justice Department was already fighting that battle before the courts. REUTERS

Retailers pull out stops

Clapping clerks, tons of tinsel await shoppers in the U.S.

Times are so tough for retailers, shoppers in the U.S. might just get a standing ovation the next time they go shopping.

U.S. retailers are going even further than before to avert what might be the worst holiday shopping season in nearly 20 years.

Many hope to appeal to as many of the senses as possible to entice customers when the shopping season gets its official start on "Black Friday."

Mall operator Macerich is pumping scents through hidden outlets to get people happy and jazzed to shop. Macerich has also asked employees to clap and cheer for customers as they enter the malls on Black Friday, to thank them for showing up.

Retailers are also heaping on bright colours and putting more sparkle in holiday displays.

Department store operator J.C. Penney will feature a lot more red in its aisles this year and decorations will be more festive, since cheery stores and brightly coloured merchandise put customers in the mood to shop, said Chief Executive Myron Ullman. REUTERS

Upscale holiday windows

- On New York's Fifth Avenue, upscale department stores are unveiling holiday windows with luxury touches such as Swarovski crystals hanging from designer dresses under twinkling lights.

Australia **Modest investment rise**

TIM WIMBORNE/REUTERS

Window cleaners work on an office tower in Sydney yesterday. Australian business investment rose modestly as firms cut back on plant and machinery amid a darkening global outlook.

Bank of America can buy Merrill

BANKING The U.S. Federal Reserve yesterday approved Bank of America Corp's purchase of investment bank Merrill Lynch & Co. Bank of America said it would buy Merrill for $44 billion US in mid-September as investors fled from financial services firms and Lehman Brothers' faced bankruptcy.

The deal needed regulatory approval, though, and a blessing from the Fed, which weighed the merger's impact on the banking sector.

Bank of America, has total consolidated assets of $1.8 trillion. REUTERS

Oil jumps 7% on Wall Street gains

ENERGY Oil jumped by more than seven per cent to over $54 US per barrel yesterday as the U.S. stock markets rallied and giant energy consumer China cut interest rates.

The gain came despite bearish U.S. government inventory data which showed an unexpectedly large rise in crude stocks last week as demand fell again.

U.S. crude rose $3.67 to end at $54.44 a barrel.

Oil has fallen by almost $100 a barrel since hitting a peak above $147 a barrel in July as the global credit crunch dented demand. REUTERS

Magna to close two plants

AUTOS Auto-parts maker Magna International said yesterday it plans to close its two Ontario plants and consolidate its operations with other facilities, cutting about 850 jobs.

Exterion, which makes plastic fenders, body panels, and decorative trim, said it would eventually shut its operations in Newmarket and Aurora, Ont.

It plans to consolidate its operations by June 2009. REUTERS

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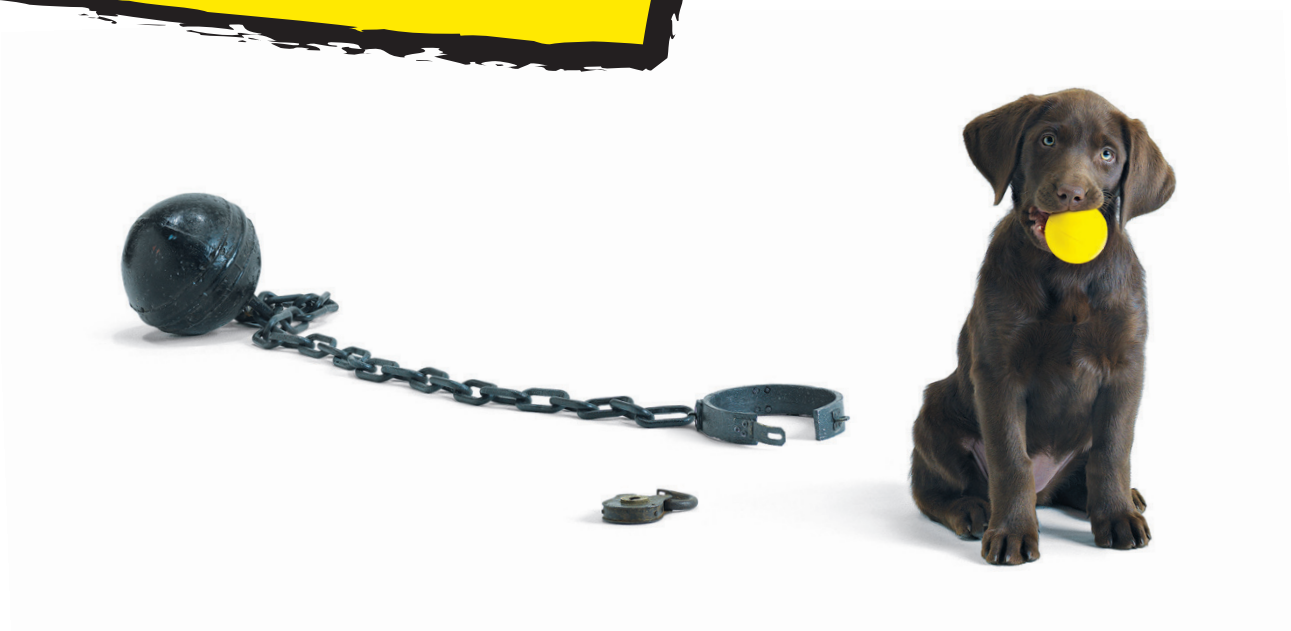

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SKYNET
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6338 Fraser Street

UNIPAGE
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Warming up

The hottest trend to spill over from the World Cup is heated gear bags. The concept is simple: Place boots, gloves and socks in an insulated bag with a low heat source to warm the contents. Starting the day with warm boots helps keep feet warm the whole day. Prices range from $139 to $169. Go to hotgearbag.com for more. **SKI CANADA**

Ski & Snowboard PREVIEW

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Dos and don'ts

Below are ski bindings dos and don'ts, by Martin Olson, technical editor at Ski Canada:

- **DO** make sure boots are absolutely clean before stepping in.
- **DON'T** boot your bindings like a football before slamming the boot in — it's not cool or smart.
- **DO** clean bindings with water — solvents will dissolve factory-installed lubricants that also serve as rust protection.
- **DON'T** release your binding with your ski. All heelpieces have an indentation so that you can release by pushing down with your pole.
- **DO** know your DIN — the Deutsches Institut fur Normung (German Institute for Standardization) — setting. It's not something you want to guess at.
- **DON'T** transport skis unprotected on your car roof. Corrosion from road salt and grit can ruin expensive bindings as well as make their function suspect.
- **DO** let a shop pro adjust your bindings the first time. **SKI CANADA**

Take lessons, expert says

TAGHREED SAADEH
for Metro Canada

Snowboarding is a great way to enjoy the mountains and get some exercise, but it can be frustrating if you don't learn the proper techniques.

That's why Anthony Crute, owner and operations manager of Pro Ride Snowboard Camps, recommends getting a lesson from your local snowboard school. "You will learn quicker than doing it on your own, have more success and less chance of injury," he says.

"The learning curve for snowboarding is quite quick, so in no time you can be making turns down easy trails on your local ski hill," he adds.

"Do not give up after one day," he says. "Plan to take three to four half-day lessons and then practice what you have learned."

If you can afford it, a private lesson is best, says Crute, but otherwise, a group lesson is still a better option than teaching yourself.

"Choose your lesson days carefully," he says. "Watch the weather and look for a day with fresh snow or warm slushy conditions.

"If you ski, then don't learn to snowboard on a crappy ski day, as it will not be conducive to learning to snowboard," he says. "Avoid icy days."

Most importantly, Crute says, is "Relax and have fun."

Crute says beginners should dress warmly and wear protective equipment, such as padded shorts, wrist guards and a helmet. Riding clothing is functional, loose-fitting, layered, funky and waterproof.

"Make sure you rent high-performance snowboard gear when you learn as it is better than the basic rental gear," he says.

Snowboarding can be frustrating if you don't learn the proper techniques, experts say.

As snowboarding requires strength, flexibility, muscular endurance and balance, exercise is key to being ready to hit the slopes.

"To get ready for the winter, and to keep you in shape across the winter, you will want to look at training two to three times a week with one day's rest in between each session," he says. "The goal here is to start to build your endurance and strength and make sure that you work out all of the major muscle groups."

For more information, visit *pro-ride.com*.

MIKE POWELL /ALLSPORT/GETTY IMAGES

B.C. has exploded to six million skier-visits from 1.5 million over the past 30 years, according to Ski Canada magazine.

Fortuitous timing for resort improvements

From
Ski Canada
on newsstands now
skicanadamag.com

Long before Wall Street's meltdown in September, whiffs of economic unease were in the air last winter.

So it was fortuitous timing that most resorts found themselves in a phase of incremental improvement rather than gigantic capital investments.

Some highlights include:

KICKING HORSE

Plans were unveiled at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort at Golden, B.C., for a transformative expansion aimed at catapulting it into Canada's top tier of ski resorts. Its move, announced in August, amounts to a bellowing rejoinder to last year's hype over Revelstoke Mountain Resort. It's meant to accelerate the momentum of a mountain that has earned the respect of every hardcore skier who's ever visited, and attracted a growing following from the Calgary area, but remains short of profitable mass-market presence.

NORQUAY

The perfectly situated mountain just above Banff continues to service its unique market niche.

Last season Norquay opened its redesigned snowboard park under the tutelage of Jeff Patterson to "great reviews," according to André Quenneville, Norquay's general manager. The town mountain also received last-minute Parks Canada approval to widen Excalibur run to a continuous 40-metre-wide FIS standard. **GEORGE KOCH**

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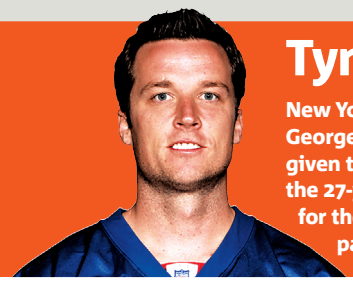
Report: Argos interview Fassel

CKNW is reporting that Toronto Argonauts GM Adam Rita interviewed former New York Giants coach Jim Fassel for the team's head coaching vacancy yesterday. Fassel is also reportedly in the running for the Oakland Raiders job. **SOURCE: TSN**

Sports



Tynes asks Bush for pardon

New York Giants kicker Lawrence Tynes, left, has asked the George W. Bush administration to commute a lengthy sentence given to his brother for distributing marijuana. Tynes maintains that the 27-year sentence that his brother Mark is serving was excessive for the crime. It is customary for outgoing U.S. presidents to grant pardons before they leave office. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Canucks look to keep win streak against Flames

Tonight

7 p.m.
TV: Sportsnet
Radio: TEAM 1040

The Canucks will attempt to improve on a near perfect 5-0-1 record versus divisional opponents when they host the Flames. Vancouver has defeated Calgary in two previous meetings this season, winning 6-0 on home ice and 5-4 in overtime at the Saddledome.

SAND BLASTER: Curtis Sanford starts again in place of the injured Roberto Luongo. Sanford has backstopped Vancouver to three straight wins, turning aside 77 of 82 shots.

SCOTT RINTOUL/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Kings dump Oil

Kings 2 Oilers 1

Anze Kopitar and Patrick O'Sullivan both posted a goal and an assist, lifting Los Angeles to a 2-1 win over Edmonton at Rexall Place last night.

Jason LaBarbera stopped 22 shots, including all seven he faced in the third period, for the Kings, who won for just the second time in their last six games.

Ales Hemsky found the back of the net and Dwayne Roloson made 27 saves for Edmonton, which lost for the fifth time in six games.

Los Angeles opened the scoring 5:58 into the contest. Kopitar let go a shot from the slot and Roloson made the save with the left pad. O'Sullivan, though, followed up the play and banged home the rebound.

DAN RIEDLHUBER/REUTERS

Los Angeles's Kyle Calder, left, and Oscar Moller fight for the puck with Edmonton goalie Dwayne Roloson last night.

The Kings took the lead for good with 6:09 to go in the middle stanza. O'Sullivan made a centering feed from the near corner to Kopitar in front of the net and he slammed it out of the air past Roloson.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pointing fingers (in a good way) at Canucks

ToulBox

Scott Rintoul

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Not that anyone over at GM Place is looking for a pat on the back just 22 games into the season, but the Canucks' unexpectedly hot start has fans debating who deserves the most credit for the early season success.

Roberto Luongo is always a popular answer as conventional wisdom dictates the Canucks will only go as far as one of the planet's best goaltenders will take them.

Others point to a mainly healthy defensive corps, something the Canucks lacked all of last season.

There is also a very valid argument to be made for Alain Vigneault, who has guided a group lacking an offensive superstar into the league's top ten in scoring.

While these are worthy candidates, rookie GM Mike Gillis deserves the most credit at this point. Gillis brought in Pavol Demitra and castoff Kyle Wellwood, upgraded the grit quotient with Ryan Johnson, Darcy Hordichuk and Shane O'Brien and, when firing Vigneault was the easy thing to do, he chose to retain his bench boss. The result has been an outstanding start that at least increases the chances of Mats Sundin signing here, as unlikely as that may seem.

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Quinn done for year
Cleveland Browns quarterback Brady Quinn is officially out for the rest of the season with a broken finger on his throwing hand. METRO NEWS SERVICES

The pressure falls squarely on Sanford

Vancouver Canucks fans fear one thing and one thing only. Unfortunately, that one thing has come to pass: Roberto Luongo is hurt.

The Canucks goalie/captain/saviour is out with a groin strain. The scary thing is, it's one of those nagging injuries that could keep him on the shelf for a week … or a month … or longer. Nobody knows, and if they do, they aren't saying. "I really don't know how long it's going to take," said Luongo, who had an MRI on Monday.

According to the team, his status is "week to week."

"This is a great challenge to our group," said Alain Vigneault, offering up some coach-speak that roughly translates to "please please please please get better fast Roberto."

Luongo, after all, is the team's most valuable player and gives Vancouver its best chance to win night after night. With all due respect to journeyman Curtis Sanford and just-called-up prospect Cory Schneider, neither one is close to Luongo's calibre. (Few are, of course. But keep an eye on Schneider; the 26th overall draft pick in 2004 was rated third among Vancouver's kids and 75th among all NHL prospects in THN's *Future Watch 2008*. Even if he changed his name to Curtis-erto Sandford-ongo, no one would mistake the Canucks backup for his all-world crease-mate. Sanford has been serviceable since arriving at the start of last season; at age 29, though, he isn't the franchise's goalie of the future.

However, the reality is, Sanford *is* the franchise's goalie of the present. For the first time in his NHL career, he's going to get a number of successive starts on a team with playoff aspirations. And if the Canucks are going to make it into the post-season — or even remain in contention — they have to stay competitive for the three or four or five weeks that Luongo is sidelined.

The early returns have been promising. Sanford won Vancouver's first three Luongo-less games, allowing a total of just five goals against Detroit, Pittsburgh and Minnesota. His 2.33 goals-against average and .919 save percentage might not quite match Luongo's numbers (2.17, .928), but it's pretty darn close. And if Sanford can keep the Canucks close until Luongo returns, that would be a kick save and a beauty.

The Hockey News thn.com

NHL Pens beat Isles

The Islanders' Mitch Fritz, left, and Pittsburgh's Eric Godard do battle last night. Evgeni Malkin registered a hat trick as the Penguins won 5-3.

Bosh, Graham carry Raptors over Bobcats

NBA RESULT

Bobcats 86 **Raptors** 93

CHARLOTTE BOBCATS vs TORONTO RAPTORS

JOHN CHICK
john.chick@metronews.ca

REUTERS/MARK BLINCH

Toronto's Joey Graham goes to the basket in the first half last night.

THE SKINNY: Chris Bosh continued to demonstrate his ascent as one of the NBA's premier players, scoring 39 points on 15-of-20 shooting and pulling down 11 boards as Toronto beat Charlotte 93-86.

NO J.O.: Jermaine O'Neal sat out, although his absence was attributed to the ankle he twisted vs. Boston, not his left knee.

SO WHO STEPPED UP? Joey Graham, whose 17 points off the bench were not only a season-high, but two off his career-high and his biggest scoring output since April 15, 2007.

THE QUOTE: "We've been struggling, but those days are over." Bosh to The Score's Adnan Virk after the game.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Los Angeles 2 Edmonton 1
Montreal 3 Detroit 1
Buffalo 3 Boston 2
Colorado 3 St. Louis 1
Dallas 4 Minnesota 3
New Jersey 3 Florida 2 (OT)
N.Y. Rangers 3 Tampa Bay 2 (SO)
Philadelphia 3 Carolina 1
Phoenix 3 Columbus 2
Pittsburgh 5 N.Y. Islanders 3
Washington 5 Atlanta 3
San Jose 3 Chicago 2 (OT)

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 93 Charlotte 86
Atlanta 102 Milwaukee 96
Boston 119 Golden State 111
Cleveland 117 Oklahoma City 82
Detroit 110 New York 96
Indiana 91 Houston 90
Orlando 96 Philadelphia 94
Phoenix 110 Minnesota 102
Portland 106 Miami 68
San Antonio 98 Chicago 88
Utah 117 Memphis 100
New Jersey at Sacramento
Denver at L.A. Clippers

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Metro Homes

Good value

We've been pleasantly surprised by O at Home, a magazine that delivers plenty of inspiration while being realistic about most folks' decor budgets; see *oprah.com/magazine/oathome*.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Simple plan clears cramped quarters

UrbanDweller

Carlyn Yandle
carlyn.yandle@metronews.ca

Last week in this space I made the link between contending with the blues and living in a cluttered, cramped space. This week, some hope for those who feel hopeless about their homes.

Say it with me: I deserve a nice home. Say it as you purchase several packets of flattened file boxes with lids, repeat it as you call that one non-judgmental friend to lend a hand for a designated day. By the end of that day, you will have created one room for all the things you used to like to do in your home, whether it's reading, sleeping, watching TV, socializing, or making stuff. Envision yourself enjoying that clear, restful space.

Start the day by putting out the tea and cookies and putting on your favourite music. Carve out one space for stacking boxes. It will probably be the dining area, since the table is likely too laden down with stuff for actual dining. Move the table into the living room and tape four pieces of paper in a line on the dining area wall: Keep, Throw Away (for trash or recycling), Give Away (to friends or Goodwill), and I Don't Know.

Roll up your sleeves and get ready to tackle the tsunami of stuff in that one room that will be your sanctuary. The goal is to empty the room — quickly. Assemble four boxes, label each one according to the wall signs, and place them on the floor. Without deliberating over each item, or launching on the backstory of how it came into your possession, drop it into one of the boxes of your choice. When a box is full, put the lid on it and move it to under the appropriate sign in the stacking area, then bring in a new box. Repeat.

Next, the furniture. Decide what is vital to the future use of the room. Move the space-wasters out to the stacked-boxes area.

Take a tea break in the room and imagine the possibilities, then re-introduce only your favourite items and essentials. Set the room up as if for a magazine spread. Maybe take a picture.

Keep up the positive momentum and plan another day for another room so that in a few weeks you have worked through your entire home, clearing out the clutter and amassing a stack of full file boxes.

Next week: Banishing those boxes in time for the holidays.

Less is more: This custom-built shelf displays the owner's favourite few objects.

Say it with me: I deserve a nice home. Say it as you purchase several packets of flattened file boxes with lids ... By the end of that day, you will have created one room for all the things you used to like to do in your home.

Carlyn Yandle is a Vancouver journalist with her own room-planning business, Home Reworks, homereworks.com.

Mixing holiday décor with a seller's mindset

HouseLeague

Ryan DeLuca
ryan.deluca@metronews.ca

With the holiday season fast approaching, and as all the glittering lights begin to shine, many sellers wonder whether they too can get involved in the decorating festivities, or if doing so will hinder a quick sale. The fact is, decorating over holidays, if done right, can give your home that added glow to spark a buyer's imagination and facilitate a potential sale.

When it comes to Christmas lights, much like your chosen paint colours, keep them simple and neutral. Opt for the white lights instead of the multi-coloured strands. Also, keep all the exterior lights to a minimum. Buyers need to be able to view the home without being blinded! Then use the same discretion when it comes to your choice of tree ornaments. Stick with classic ornaments that are less personal in appearance fitting within a colour scheme that works for you. You can use this colour scheme as a tie to colours that will be found throughout the home.

Table settings are another great way to make a home feel cozy and inviting for potential buyers. Use simple and elegant dishes and glasses and avoid any plates or cups that display cartoon characters or overly intricate designs. Matching the table setting to your tree's colour scheme (such as red and gold) can have the same effect without being perceived as "tacky."

Much like your chosen paint colours, keep (Christmas lights) simple and neutral.

While Christmas villages and figurines are very popular, as with any listing, trinkets should not be taking over all available spaces on shelving and mantles. Such items can become very distracting and can make it difficult for a buyer to view the space. The same holds true on the outside of your home. Avoid using inflatable snowmen and Santas to clutter up the lawn. The goal is to strive for a simple elegance — not look like Santa's workshop.

The essence of these tips can be applied to all households regardless of the holidays being celebrated. Clean and classy holiday decorations can light up a space and spark the imagination leading a buyer to fall in love with your home.

Ryan DeLuca is a realtor with Sotheby's International Realty Canada in Vancouver, and host of The Real Estate Minute on Novus TV.

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POINTS

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A pocket-sized chef
A new software title for Nintendo DS turns the world's best-selling portable video game system into an interactive cooking coach, complete with tasty recipes and video demos. Personal Trainer: Cooking for Nintendo DS contains more than 240 dishes from dozens of countries. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

Passeddown.com, a food website dedicated to preserving food memories and family favourite recipes, encourages users to submit their own recipe and story.
Metro News Services

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

A real potluck party pleaser

À la carte

Barb Holland
Metro Food Writer

It seems every open house or potluck party I've attended or hosted has a variation of meatballs in sauce. And despite the fact that they are rather inelegant and drippy, they're familiar comfort food and always popular. Here's one I created a few years ago and serve often. If you have a slow cooker, use it to keep them warm. They freeze well, so make a batch and stash till needed.

Cranberry Chipotle Glazed Meatballs

Chipotles are dried, smoked jalapeno peppers in a spicy tomato vinegar sauce (adobo sauce). They are quite spicy and add a wonderful rich, smoky flavour. Purée the entire can, including sauce, until smooth. You won't need the entire can, so freeze what remains in a resealable bag or freezer container for another use, such as chili, pulled pork or to kick up mayonnaise for a dip. Makes about 36 meatballs (recipe can be doubled).

INGREDIENTS:

- 1-1/2 lbs (750 g) lean ground chicken or turkey
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) prepared horseradish
- 2 tsp (10 mL) ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper

Sauce:

- 398 mL can jellied (smooth, not whole berry) cranberry sauce
- 215 g can chipotles with adobo sauce
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) horseradish or more to taste
- Salt and pepper

Alternately, serve these meatballs as a simple supper over mashed potatoes.

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C).

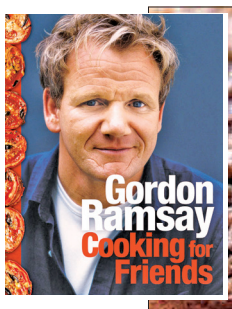
Place a wire rack(s) over a large shallow rimmed pan. Lightly combine ground chicken or turkey, horseradish, cumin, salt and pepper and roll into small balls (about 1-inch/2.5 cm). Place balls on rack. Bake until cooked through, about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, place cranberry sauce in a 4-cup (1 L) glass measure or small saucepan. Microwave or cook over low heat until sauce has melted. Purée the entire can of chipotles and adobo sauce. Add 2 tbsp (30 mL) purée to cranberry sauce, along with horseradish and salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a gentle boil, reduce heat and simmer a few minutes. Taste and adjust heat level (chipotles) or seasoning.

Combine meatballs and sauce. If serving soon, bring mixture to a simmer, transfer to a slow cooker, chafing dish or warm serving dish. If making ahead, cool then refrigerate or freeze. Reheat when ready to serve.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Friend in need, friend to feed



DITTE ISAGER PHOTOGRAPH

Gordon Ramsay's book Cooking For Friends is available online at Amazon.ca for $22.02 or in stores for $34.95.

Gordon Ramsay — a man who needs no introduction — lives life in the fast lane, travelling the world to foster his many hugely successful business enterprises and to film his highly acclaimed TV series.

But despite the commitments of a busy work life, he has always believed that families should sit around their tables to eat together as much as possible.

In Cooking for Friends, Ramsay shares more than 100 inspiring and well-constructed recipes that he loves to cook (and eat) when he's off duty. Harper Collins Canada gave Metro this recipe:

Coffee and Almond Crunch Cake

For me, this is the definitive cake to have with coffee or tea. It is all-at-once tender, moist and crunchy. It keeps well for several days in a cool part of the kitchen. Some people like a dollop of lightly sweetened mascarpone on the side, though, for me, it's perfect on its own.

INGREDIENTS:

Cake:

- 170g unsalted butter
- 170g caster sugar
- 3 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/2 tsp almond essence
- 100g ground almonds
- 4 tbsp cooled espresso or strong coffee
- 100g self-raising flour
- 1/2 tsp baking powder

Crunch topping:

- 60g plain flour
- 40g light brown or demerara sugar
- 40g cold unsalted butter, diced

METHOD:

Preheat the oven to 300° F (150° C). Butter and line the sides and base of a tall-sided 20cm cake tin with a removable base. For the crunch topping, mix the flour and sugar in a bowl and rub in the butter until it resembles coarse bread crumbs. Set aside.

Cream the butter and sugar in a large mixing bowl using a hand-held electric beater until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs, a little at a time, until fully incorporated. Add the almond essence and mix well. Fold in the ground almonds, followed by half the espresso. Sift in the flour and baking powder together and fold this through the wet mixture. Finally, fold in the remaining espresso.

Spread the mixture into the cake tin and level with a spatula. Sprinkle the crunch topping evenly over the top. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes until the top is golden brown and a skewer inserted into the cake comes out clean. Remove from the oven and leave to cool slightly before unmoulding onto a wire rack, peeling away the baking parchment. When completely cooled, dust with icing sugar and cut into slices to serve.

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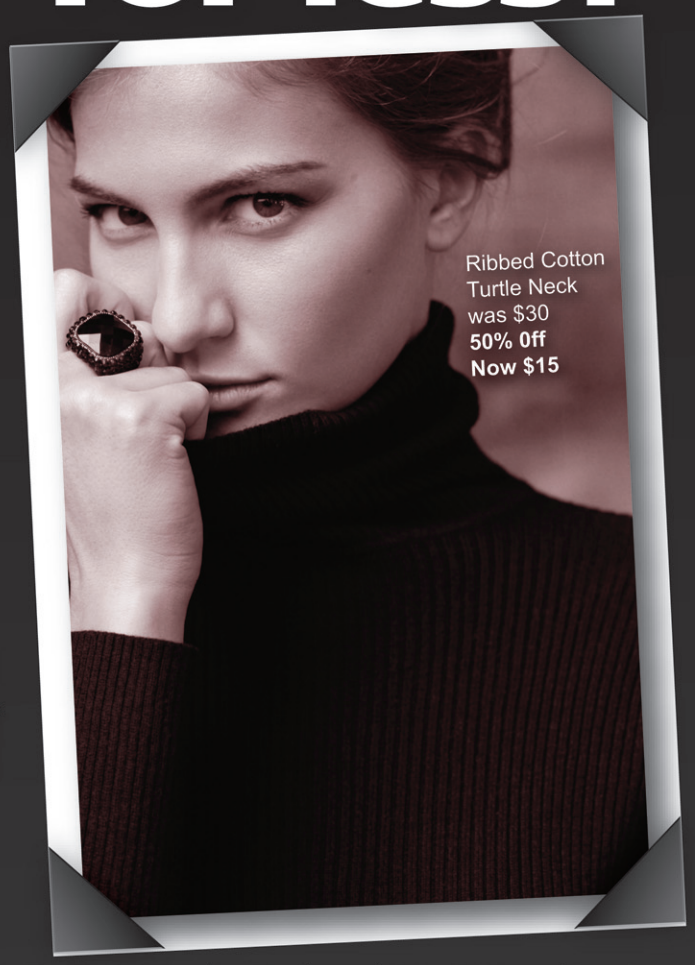

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Support World AIDS Day through makeup purchases

Beautify yourself while helping a good cause by visiting your local MAC Cosmetics store. This World AIDS Day (Dec. 1), MAC is selling Viva Glam collections and Kids Helping Kids Greeting Cards to benefit HIV/AIDS organizations around the world. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

H&M partners with Williamson

It'll be a colour-drenched summer. Renowned British designer Matthew Williamson, known for his colourful collections, will be H&M's next guest designer. His first collection will be an exclusive women's fashion range, which will hit select stores on April 23. To follow will be men's and women's summer pieces available at H&M stores worldwide in mid-May. Last year Williamson was honoured with an exhibition at the Design Museum in London called "Matthew Williamson – 10 Years in Fashion." METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Hit the slopes in neon designs

Style File
Kim Elbo
kim.elbo@gmail.com

ask kim

I am looking to buy skis but don't know where to start.

Nordica suggests that you first ask yourself and let the retailer know about your actual skiing habits, such as how many times a year you hit the slopes and what type of terrain you prefer. Then think about your budget and be realistic with it. It's always good to spend a little more for quality. And remember, it's important to know your height and weight as it determines the length of your skis.

E-mail your style questions to *kim.elbo@metronews. ca.*

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

Neon Bright
Designer: Core Powder Room
Shop: Coast Mountain Sports
Address: Various Locations
coastmountain.com

Sketches
Designer: Core Powder Room
Shop: Sport Mart
Address: Various Locations
sportmart.ca

Full Design
Designer: Peak Performance
Shop: Peak Performance
Address: 919 Robson St.
peakperformance.com

Winter jackets

Show your style on the mountain with full designs and patterns on your jackets. This season it's all about freestyle sketch designs in bright neon colours. Regardless of where you're hitting the slopes, there are three types of jackets you should be aware of. First, the shell jacket is best used on the West Coast for its milder winter conditions. Then there is the regular insulated jacket and the three-in-one jacket that combines the two jackets with removable zips, which is the most popular on the East Coast for its versatility.

accessory

Not a board or ski bunny? Take a seat on the side with these DC snow boots, $120. Available at West49 (*west49.com*).

Drawstring
Designer: Da Kine
Shop: Sport Mart
Address: Various Locations
sportmart.ca

Detailed
Designer: Powder Room
Shop: West49
Address: Various Locations
west49.com

Pearlized
Designer: Peak Performance
Shop: Peak Performance
Address: 919 Robson St.
peakperformance.com

Mittens

I've been shopping around for gloves and I've noticed that the best gloves to buy for any winter sport are mittens. Mittens trap the heat in from your entire hand, whereas gloves individually trap the heat in for each finger, making the insulation thicker and unbearable for fingers to move in. If you do like the freedom of loose digits, try looking around for a turtle hand. It's just as you would imagine it: A mitten with a separate section for your index finger that makes it easier for you to grab and unzip things.

tip: Buy gloves or mittens with removable inner inserts. These are best for drying your gloves quickly and efficiently.

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

New York designers Rodarte are hitting the international big leagues, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

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How to lose weight at lunch

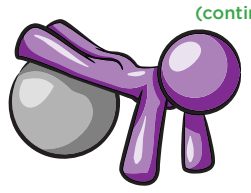
The way to healthy living is finding time to exercise and eat well. Here are some tips to help you burn calories, lose weight, reduce stress and give yourself a boost of energy – all in an hour a day!

Research shows that short bouts of intense exercise can enhance weight loss, cardiovascular fitness, muscle mass, strength and mood.

Vary your weekly exercise routine to include walking briskly, climbing stairs, sit-ups and push-ups, squats, and stretching. Many can be done at the office or close-by.

Just taking a few minutes a day to prepare a nutritious lunch will give you something delicious to enjoy at your desk post-workout. Make sure to stay hydrated by drinking lots of water throughout the day.

(continued online...)



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Holiday Shopping Guide II

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Shop until you drop

Looking for the perfect gift? Read on for fabulous gift ideas, including the best kitchen appliances, p. 30.

Music Pg 27

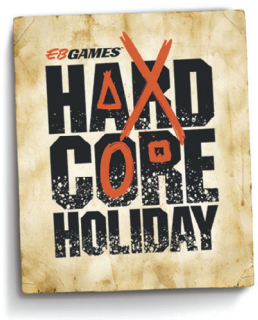
The first of Metro's roundup of this holiday's jolliest jingles.

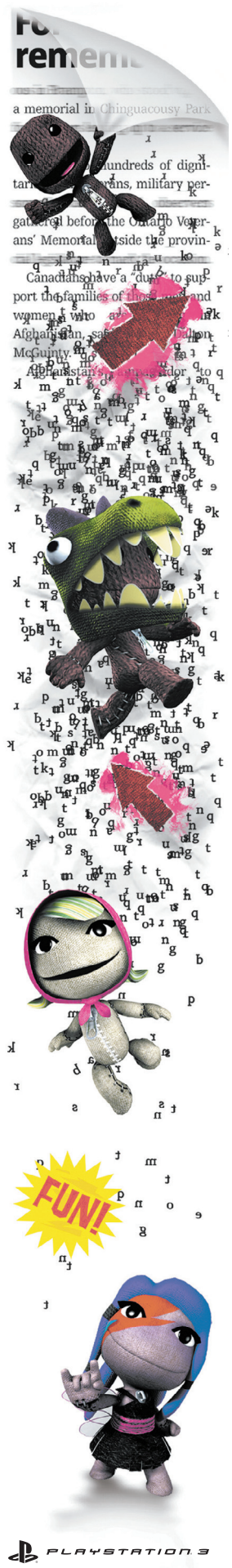
For her Pg 28

From makeup to jewelry, these gifts are sure to please.

Tech Pg 34

What to give the tech-savvy music lover on your list.





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Holiday Shopping Guide II

Zune gives iPod run for its money

RICK McGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

Once a one-word punch line on online geek forums, Microsoft's Zune has been getting more respect in the last year, as second- and third-generation players and a major software update has changed its status from joke to contender.

The iPod's ubiquity might have reached a tipping point and begun diminishing its cool factor, but a comparision between the two players has become something like a fair fight.

There are a lot of digital music players, but the Zune and the iPod are the Beatles and Rolling Stones, as Microsoft's entry into the market two years ago quickly zoomed past more established players like Creative, iRiver and Sansa to second place, albeit far behind iPod's massive market share (73 per cent, at least according to Apple as of last year.)

In terms of usability, Zune stole the march on the iPod with the last major revision of Apple's operating system, when the famously elegant interface gave way to a graphics-heavy split screen that felt kludgy, especially when Coverflow was engaged. Zune's interface, controlled by a signature "squircle" pad with its mix of click and touch sensitivity, feels more responsive, and the larger screen on the Zune gives the player's interface readability.

With its choice of customizable wallpapers and the Zune Originals — artist-decorated players available at no extra cost — Microsoft has reversed the brand myths that have made Apple the epitome of creative rebellion versus Microsoft's faceless behemoth, but the iPod was going to have a hard time maintaining that image for the iPod once it reached market saturation anyway.

The Zune adds features — FM radio, Wi-Fi — that Apple has curiously neglected, while eschewing an EQ that would be a minus if the player didn't have basically excellent sound. Apple, in the meantime, has shown a commitment to its standard issue subpar earbuds that's almost perverse. And since Apple axed its 160GB iPod from the Classic line, the two players compete neatly on memory capacity, with the Zune's frequent price drops on its smaller flash players (4, 8 and 16GB players for $99, $139 and $179 respectively) making it the better deal.

The Zune's software has also improved, moving from a reskinned Windows Media Player to an integrated suite combining music database and syncing interface, download shop and the Social — the Facebook lite users' community that it obviously intends as a killer app against Apple. It might be that one day, once there are enough Zune owners out there, but so far my community of Zune friends is limited to two nice publicists at Microsoft's PR firm, and as there's no Canadian version of the Marketplace, the Zune will really only be competing with small-fry players in this market.

Apple's iTunes remains superior, however, as an organizing tool for large music libraries, though bugs (disappearing tunes, album artwork, and even whole libraries) have developed a Windows-like frequency as the program has grown in size and demands on computer CPUs. Apple's iPod Touch, an entirely new piece of hardware and software, also points the way to a future that the Zune will be forced to follow. And for anyone whose music library exceeds the capacity of the largest music players (120GB, for both iPod and Zune), the playing field belongs to iTunes, with its Airport wireless networking capability. It's not hard to imagine a day when Apple, the computer maker, leaves the music player field to Microsoft, the software giant, to concentrate on iTunes as a digital entertainment system.

Microsoft's 80G Zune music player at left, and the Apple iPod Touch at right.

Honky-tonk and headbangers among holiday's jolliest jingles

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

CHRISTMAS IS THE TIME for family, gift exchanges and musicians to rehash the traditional songs of the season in their particular style, for better or worse. So in the interest of saving you time and sanity this Christmas, Metro perused some of the season's jolliest jingles.

Various **Artists**

Album: We Wish You a Metal Xmas and a Headbanging New Year
Label: Armoury
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕⊕

Gods of hard rock unite to shred and wail all your favourite seasonal standards in this raucous and wonderful collection of mirth-making metal mayhem. Jams of note include

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen as howled by Ronnie James Dio, and a take on Silent Night done in part by Testament's Chuck Billy and Anthrax's Scott Ian — a version of the hymn that is anything but quiet. An absolute must for those who will celebrate Jesus' birth by pumping their devil horns in the air.

Harry **Connick Jr.**

Album: What A Night! A Christmas Album
Label: Columbia
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕½

You can tell Connick wasn't trying to bore the listener with a collection of the same olds on his third Christmas album — though you'll find a few here. Connick does skirt the line between fun and fromage (there's a track called Santarrific), but he does so bravely. He's at his best when he brings his N'awlins Yat style to the music; doing a convincing job on Charles Brown's blues lament Please Come Home For Christmas and opening up the album with It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year to a quasi-zydeco beat.

Anne **Murray**

Album: Anne Murray's Christmas Album
Label: EMI
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

Anne Murray's seventh

Christmas album is everything you might expect. The Canadian music icon knows her audience and sticks to what she does well. Sugary productions with a countrified twang lay out the traditional tracks. CanCon contemporaries Michael Bublé and Diana Krall join Murray on her latest, increasing the likelihood that one of these covers may find its way onto a CBC Christmas special that your mom will watch with bells on.

Enya

Album: And Winter Came
Label: Warner Bros.
Rating: ⊕⊕½

Irish songstress Enya has chosen to make a Christmas album her first release in three years, even though she already has three seasonal works to her name. And none of it deviates from her Celtic new-age modus operandi; drawn out "oohs" and "aahs" weave in with ebbing and flowing long chords while she jumps from English to Latin to Gaelic. The stars twinkle, nights are full of kisses — you'll find all manner of such generic sentimental dross here. Tryptophan for the ear.

Various **Artists**

Album: Country Heat Christmas 3
Label: Sony/BMG
Rating: ⊕

Some of the genre's brightest stars unite, yet again, to shamelessly unleash a collection of horrifying slack-jawed treatments upon an undeserving public. Offenders include ex-Idol Kellie Pickler, who takes the already tasteless Santa Baby to ostentatious new lows, and Canadian Paul Brandt, who regurgitates novelty song Convoy into a narrative-led disaster. Other such acts play to the unfair hillbilly stereotype — adding the Hee Haw along with the heat on what will likely be this year's most abrasive Christmas album.

Next Week
Pick up Metro on Dec. 4 for more musical gift ideas.

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Holiday cheers
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Holiday Shopping Guide II

Hot gifts for her

KIM ELBO
for Metro Canada

Make it up to her (gifts under $50)

The best bet is always makeup when you're not sure what to get your sister, girlfriend or wife. Here are some great holiday gift sets perfect for the budget-conscious:

1 All the fine makeup essentials tucked away in a little treasure chest. Quo Secret Treasure gift set, $40, is available at Shoppers Drug Mart (*shoppersdrugmart.ca*).

2 Keep your lips plump and shiny for a New Year's kiss. Du Wop limited edition gift set, $42, is available at Beauty Mark, 1120 Hamilton St. (*beautymark.ca*).

3 Primp up at the parties with a gold clutch at hand. Clarins Chic n Glam holiday gift set, $49, is available at Sears (*sears.com*).

Hostess with the mostess (gifts under $75)

Don't show up empty-handed at the next party you're going to. Show your appreciation by giving the hostess a gift.

4 For the fashionable hostess, give her the essence of John Galliano in a candle. John Galliano candle by Diptyque, $72, is available at Lola, 1076 Hamilton St. (*lolahomeandapparel.com*).

5 The hosesst that loves all things luxurious will love to pamper themselves in 23kt gold-leaf body essentials. Linden Leaves Gold gift set, $74, is available at the Bay (*hbc.com*).

6 Liked the party? Give the hostess a reason to invite you over again. Palais de Thes glass mini tea set, $75, is available at Farfalla, 57 Cordova St. E. (*shopfarfalla.ca*).

Sparkle and shine ($100+ gifts)

For that special someone, leave her gleaming bright this holiday with jewelry.

7 The perfect gift to commemorate the holidays: Juicy Couture charm and bracelet, $120, is available at Hills, 2125 West 41st Ave. (*hillsofkerrisdale.com*).

8 Ring in the new year with this sweet Fleur-de-lis design ring. Corpus Christi ring, $145, is available at Lola, 1076 Hamilton St. (*lolahomeandapparel.com*).

9 Let her sparkle this season with this beautiful necklace you could wear with just about anything. Lolo necklace, $175, is available at Beauty Mark, 1120 Hamilton St. (*beautymark.ca*).

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Stocking stuffer

This holiday season, Subway and Special Olympics Canada have teamed up to create a special-edition charitable cash card. Subway will donate $1 of all cash-card sales to Special Olympics Canada. Available until Dec. 31 at all Subway restaurants. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide II

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Kitchen Aid stand mixer in Bay Leaf, $399.99. Available at Home Outfitters, *homeoutfitters.com*.

Chef's Choice PizzellePro Model 835, $49.99. Call 1-800-342-3255 or visit *chefschoice.com* to find a retailer near you.

Theatre Style Hot Air Popcorn Machine, $79.97 at Home Hardware. For more, go to *homehardware.ca*.

Cuisinart Griddler Overstuffed Sandwich Maker, $79.99. Available at The Bay. For more, go to *hbc.com*.

Electric 15-inch Party Platter, $44.97 at Home Hardware. For more, go to *homehardware.ca*.

Tassimo Supreme Hot Beverage System by Bosch, $189.99. Also available in Magic Black, Silk Silver and Morning Sun (Orange). Available at Home Outfitters, *homeoutfitters.com*.

The Juiceman Jr., $99.99. Available at Wal-Mart. For more, go to *juiceman.com*.

Cuisinart SM-70C stand mixer in chrome, $549-$599. Available at The Bay, Home Outfitters, Sears and online at Future Shop.

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Holiday Shopping Guide II

More buying online

Stores still best best for last-minute shoppers

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

Crowded stores, frustrated shoppers, inexperienced and temporary holiday help at the store — it might all add up to make online Christmas shopping more attractive.

More customers are opting to complete their shopping lists with the click of a button, buying their Christmas presents at online retailers, and the number of online shoppers around the world is expected to rise this year. IMRG, an online membership community for e-retailers, released a survey in late October that concluded the Internet is becoming an increasingly important tool for driving consumer choice.

Of the two million people surveyed, 68 per cent said they're more likely to shop online for Christmas this year, compared with 56 per cent in 2007. And 86 per cent of shoppers said they would research all options online before buying in-store.

It's also a growing trend in Canada, says Andrea Hadley, a conference director at eMetrics, an online retailer analyst. Increased broadband access, coupled with more American interest, has moved more retailers to follow the market.

"There's consistent growth in Canada, and so long as the customer has a good experience as a user, you'll continue to see it," she said.

Find gifts for everyone on your list from the comfort of home.

It's not hard to see why, says Bernard Luthi, vice-president of merchandising at online retailer Newegg.ca. He argues customers are tired of dealing with throngs of angry shoppers during the Christmas rush. Infrastructure costs such as employee wages and maintenance factor into the price tag at the store — something Luthi says online retailers and customers don't have to worry about.

"We're predicting growth in the double digits this year because people are becoming more cost-conscious," he said. "You're also spending time and gas money to get to these retail establishments. Online, you have more time to do in-depth research on the product that you want to buy."

While security remains an issue, Hadley says it has improved, along with perceptions, over the past three years.

If you are going to buy online, buy early to ensure that what you've bought gets to you by Christmas.

Don't leave online shopping to the last minute either, Luthi says, adding that you can expect to wait at least three to five days before you get your package from your online retailer.

"We always advise, especially in the Christmas season, to give yourself adequate time," he said.

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Holiday Shopping Guide II

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Record old albums or audio cassettes onto new digital CDs with this Wooden Music Centre with Recordable CD Player, $199.97. Available at Wal-Mart, walmart.ca.

Philips Photo Clock Radio, $149.99. Go to philips.com for more.

48" Air Hockey Table, $49.97. Available at Wal-Mart, walmart.ca.

Stanley Tripod 3-in1 LED Flashlight, $29.99. For more, call 1-800-263-6292 or visit www.stanleytools.com.

Gillette Fusion Phenom Holiday gift set, $23.99. Includes Gillette Fusion Power Phenom razor with cartridge, HydraGel shave gel and HydraSoothe after-shave balm.

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For the music lovers

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Sirius Stiletto 2.

XMp3 Satellite Radio ($279; XM subscription $14.99/month)

Sirius Stiletto 2 ($299.99; Sirius subscription $14.99/month)

Tivoli NetWorks Internet radio ($649.99)

Top 40 playlists, rigid oldies formats and endless talk have made conventional radio a dreary experience, but satellite and internet radio offer relief — with a few conditions. With internet radio, you need an Ethernet or Wi-Fi connection, and with satellite you need a clear "sightline" of the two competing satellite networks that, in Canada at least, haven't merged together into one yet.

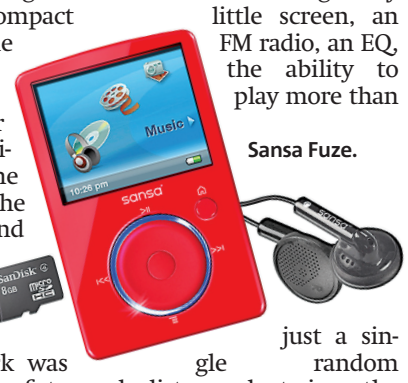
Previous generations of portable satellite players turned into bricks the moment you entered a tunnel or subway or fell into a satellite gray area, so both Sirius and XM have updated their iPod-like units with microSD memory slots that allow you to turn their radios into conventional mp3 players. Commuting to work with both machines on surface transit had XM's network holding connections just a bit better than the Sirius Stiletto 2, and the Sirius Altec Lansing combination headphone/antenna was a bit too close-fitting, pinching the arms of my glasses painfully against my temples. A slightly lower price tag, in addition to a more compact design, gave the XMp3 a decided edge.

Tivoli is famous for their small but luxurious PAL radio, and the NetWork takes the PAL's good looks and great sound and builds an internet radio into it. Configuration on my home Wi-Fi network was quick, and the choice of stations generous. The interface is a bit retro — think first generation monochrome iPod screen — but the sound was spectacular, especially for digitally-compressed streaming, and that would be most of what you would be paying (dearly) for.

Sansa Clip 4GB ($89.99)

Sansa Fuze 4GB ($99.99)

For iPod and Zune refuseniks, there's still a wealth of very nice mp3 players out there, and Sandisk has been quietly holding their corner of the flash memory player market for years. The Clip is meant to compete with the iPod Shuffle, and while this little gray unit might not be as minimal as Apple's lite player, it has a lot that the Shuffle doesn't, including a tidy little screen, an FM radio, an EQ, the ability to play more than just a single random playlist, and twice the memory of the 2GB Shuffle — at almost the same price. The plastic clip at the back seems a bit flimsier than the Shuffle's, but it held on just as well during a gym workout.



Sansa Fuze.

The Fuze competes with Apple's Nano, at a very competitive price (the 8GB Fuze is $40 cheaper than the same sized Nano), with the addition of FM radio, and a microSD slot that lets you expand the memory even further. (Sandisk's microSDHC cards run $29.99 for 4GB, $49.99 for 8GB.) The build quality is impressive — it's a sleek little machine, all black gloss and rubber, with an easy-to-navigate menu, and both players offer simple syncing through Windows Media Player.

Sony MDRNC500D noise-cancelling headphones ($449.99)

Sony MDRNC6 noise-cancelling headphones ($79.99)

Sony NWZ-S736F 4GB music player with noise-cancelling headphones ($149.99)

One of the reasons why mp3 players can make you deaf is the volume necessary to drown out background noise during daily commutes. Noise-canceling headphones let you listen at reasonable volume while blocking out the din, but effectiveness comes at a price.

Sony MDRNC500D headphones.

Sony's NWZ-S736F music player system comes married to a pair of noise-cancelling earbuds, and it does a fine enough job competing with the sounds of traffic and airplane engines. Like the standalone DJ-style MDRNC6 earphones, background sound was cut down to a level where music could compete with it on a level playing field — diminishing, but not cancelling.

Sony's MDRNC500D are the sorts of high-end units you see frequent fliers pull out of special carrying cases in first-class sections of planes, sleek and well-made, with a range of accessories including a battery pack to augment the rechargeable battery on long flights. They promise 99 per cent noise-cancellation, and do a pretty good job delivering, with excellent audio quality to boot, but at a hefty price tag.

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Life-changing gifts

Charities offer unique items that help others

You may be home for the holidays, but, for many Canadians, 'tis the season to think far beyond their own hearth — and borders.

"We are just consistently amazed at Canadians' compassion. That's really a trait of Canadians, our ability to think beyond ourselves," says World Vision director of public relations Karen Homer.

This is the eighth year the Christian relief agency's seasonal catalogue (view it at worldvision.ca) is helping Canadians contribute gifts considered invaluable in the developing world, either on their own or on behalf of someone else.

The top-selling item in last year's catalogue was two hens and a rooster ($55), and among this year's offerings are water filters ($75) and a backpack filled with school supplies for a child ($25). You can also keep your gift closer to home by giving $30 to feed a Canadian family.

"We are just consistently amazed at Canadians' compassion. That's really a trait of Canadians, our ability to think beyond ourselves."
Karen Homer

"I've had the benefit of being in remote villages in the middle of the Sahara, seeing the difference a goat can make. For people living on $1 a day, that's just an outstanding gift, the equivalent of an Xbox for the kids of the village," says Homer.

UNICEF cards and merchandise, sold online at unicef.ca or at retailers such as Ikea, Rona, Pier 1 and the Bay, also help children in developing countries.

"By supporting UNICEF, you're making those purchases you're going to make anyway. At the same time, you're helping children around the world, which is really the spirit of the holidays," says Jerry Seligman, director of sales and marketing at UNICEF.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DAVID DUCHEMIN/WORLD VISION

The gift of a goat can change lives for villagers in the Sahara.

New U2 album almost ready

U2 has almost finished work on their 12th studio album. Although the followup to 2004's How To Dismantle An Atomic Bomb will not be released until 2009, Interscope label chairman Jimmy Iovine says the album is nearly complete. **ANANOVA.COM**

Entertainment

Stan again

Eminem's sixth studio album will feature a track labelled as the followup to his 2000 hit single Stan. The album is due out in early 2009.

ANANOVA.COM

Show the animals you care with a BC SPCA *Paws*itive Gift!
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●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Guns finally loaded

U2, Coldplay contribute to digital mag

MUSIC Some of the biggest names in music are to contributing exclusive songs to RED(WIRE), a digital music magazine that launches on World AIDS Day (Dec. 1).

Bono

U2, Coldplay, the Killers, the Dixie Chicks, John Legend, R.E.M. and Bob Dylan are on board for the initiative, which is an outgrowth of the Bono-reared activist organization called (RED). All proceeds from subscriptions will benefit HIV-infected people in Africa.

For $5 US, users will receive a new issue of RED(WIRE) every Wednesday, featuring an exclusive song from a major musician, a song from a performer who (RED) aims to showcase and other features. **REUTERS**

Madge's brother to direct thriller

MOVIES Christopher Ciccone, who has directed music videos for his sister Madonna, will make his feature directorial debut with the teen thriller Twist.

The Usonian Entertainment production is written by Jay Milner and Karyn Milner of Clouded Leopard Prods. **REUTERS**

The Fireman

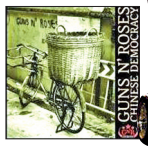
Album: Electric Arguments
Label: ATO/MPL
Rating: ●●●½

PAUL MCCARTNEY HAS been desperately seeking to prove his artistic metal ever since Yoko Ono came out with that devastating "rhymes June with spoon" comment. One of the ways he's been doing that is through his Fireman collaborations with Killing Joke producer Youth. Here he steps it up a notch, adding immediately recognizable vocals and long shards of rootsy melody to the acid-drenched brew. The result is a remarkably satisfying alt-rock album that would fit in on many indie-kid playlists. Let's not forget that McCartney's name shares space with Lennon's, however nominally, on such classic psychedelics as I Am The Walrus and Tomorrow Never Knows.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

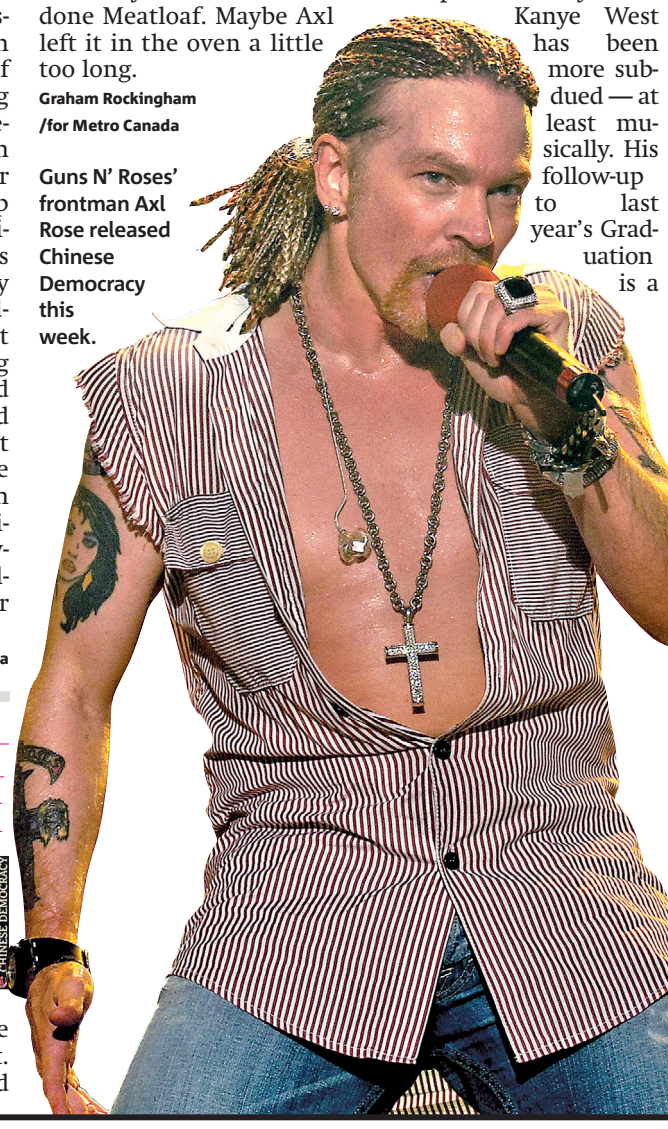
Guns N' Roses

Album: Chinese Democracy
Label: Geffen/Universal
Rating: ●●●½



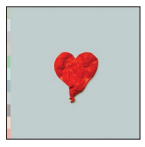
THIS WOULD HAVE been a landmark album if it had been released 15 years ago when Axl Rose began his Arthurian quest. It may have even saved hair metal from the onslaught of grunge (doubtful). Now, with its gunslinger guitars and castrato vocals, Chinese Democracy seems like a shiny relic unearthed from hair-metal Camelot. Rose has given finally given us his Sgt. Pepper of pop metal. At times it reaches power-ballad heaven. At others, it merely tastes like overdone Meatloaf. Maybe Axl left it in the oven a little too long.

Graham Rockingham /for Metro Canada


Guns N' Roses' frontman Axl Rose released Chinese Democracy this week.

Kanye West

Album: 808s & Heartbreak
Label: Roc-A-Fella/Universal
Rating: ●●●



SINCE THE DEATH of his mother and the dissolution of a long-term relationship, the usually brash Kanye West has been more subdued — at least musically. His follow-up to last year's Graduation is a somber affair with slow, mellow songs about heartbreak and loss. While it's not nearly as exciting as his previous efforts, it's still intriguing to see this hip-hop superstar get in touch with his softer side. The biggest detraction isn't the few plodding tunes that could have been edited out, it's the overzealous use of autotune. If only he used his own vocal skills, than this could have been a classic.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

MusicReviews

music@metronews.ca

The Killers

Album: Day And Age
Label: Island Def Jam/Universal
Rating: ●●●

HOW CAN YOU not like an album that asks the question "Are we human or are we dancer?" Smoke a big one and you can spend hours mulling over its anti-grammatical philosophy. Killers frontman Brandon Flowers says the lyric to the single Human was inspired by a remark from the late king of gonzo Hunter S. Thompson.. Thompson's madness was well-rooted in '60s drug-induced mayhem. The Killers are mired in '80s synth-pop, which is fine if all you want is to dance along with everyone else. This band is capable of more. **Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada**

Scott Weiland

Album: Happy In Galoshes
Label: Soft Drive/MapleMusic
Rating: ●●½

NEIL YOUNG MIGHT have been onto something when he said it's better to burn out than to fade away. Unfortunately, a host of 90s grunge acts didn't get the memo — and if anyone should have quit while ahead it was Stone Temple Pilots frontman Scott Weiland. The alt-rocker's latest solo effort is a uninspiring collection of middling pop rock tunes. Although it's not offensive, it's mostly forgettable, and that's the worst thing that can happen to a former rock icon.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Ludacris

Album: Theater Of The Mind
Label: DTP/Def Jam/Universal
Rating: ●●

HAVING GAINED CRED as a Hollywood actor, the rapper also known as Chris Bridges figures that's reason enough to invite some thespian pals (Chris Rock, Jamie Foxx) to cameo on his sixth effort. Too bad said cast has to endure its star's formulaic script of crass boasts and mindless flows of n-bombs, b-bombs and mofo-bombs, all against terribly bland beatbox backdrops.

Ian Nahanson/for Metro Canada

Leibovitz faces lawsuit from stylist
Celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz has been targeted in a new lawsuit after a celebrity stylist accused her of failing to pay almost $400,000 US for her work on a photoshoot with Scarlett Johansson. **IMDB.COM**

The power of the Truman syndrome

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

(The Truman Show) was specifically mentioned by several of the patients studied by Dr. Joel Gold ... which might suggest a further link with the "previously viewed" bins in DVD rental stores.

YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA: The stories about deluded souls convinced their lives are the subjects of reality TV cameras began not long after reality TV hit the airwaves, and the stories about the afflicted are cropping up at regular intervals in the news cycle.

An Associated Press story this week introduces us to three victims: A man who importuned staff at a federal building in the U.S. to get released from the reality show that had taken over his life, a second convinced that he was being filmed for a TV contest, and a third who believed he was "part of a phony, stage-set world with him as the involuntary star," where even the drugs and therapy he was receiving were part of the illusion.

The last case is cited as a perfect example of what has been dubbed "Truman syndrome," the sole legacy The Truman Show, a 1998 Jim Carrey movie, has bequeathed upon popular culture. The movie was specifically mentioned by several of the patients studied by Dr. Joel Gold of Manhattan's Bellevue Hospital over a two-year period, which might suggest a further link with the "previously viewed" bins in DVD rental stores.

It's hard not be both amused and fascinated by people who have developed an interesting twist on René Descartes's philosophical bumper sticker: "I think, therefore I am." The Cartesian epigram is a cornerstone of modern philosophy, but it's more than 350 years old now, so it's no surprise that one branch has mutated into "I exist to be filmed," or some self-regarding variation thereof.

You can't help but be impressed with the weird power of television the first time you end up on it; friends and relatives who were patently unimpressed by my choice of profession could be counted on to respond enthusiastically when I ended up appearing on camera.

I'd go so far as to suggest that, for every unhappy soul complaining of being press-ganged into the Bachelor of some as-yet-unaired pilot, there are probably many more happily going through life glorying in the illusion of being the Gene Simmons of their own social circle, pulling up the covers at night, imagining that these last moments of their day are being captured in green and black night vision.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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Judge punishes noisy offenders with Manilow, Barney songs

SENTENCING A U.S. judge has hailed as a success a new form of punishment for people who go to court for being too noisy – an hour of listening to Barry Manilow or the theme tune from the children's TV show Barney and Friends.

Judge Paul Sacco said he decided to try something new after noticing that violators brought before his Colorado court for playing their stereos too loudly, or disturbing neighbours with band rehearsals, kept doing it again.

The usual practice of fining these offenders was not proving to be a deterrent, so he decided to give them a dose of their own medicine and make them listen to his musical selection at high volume for one hour.

"This is a way, when I look back, of teaching manners to people."
Paul Sacco

"This is a way, when I look back, of teaching manners to people," Sacco, a judge from Fort Lupton Municipal Court in Colorado, told Reuters Television.

He said his methods had cut the number of repeat offenders appearing in his court.

But offenders who are found to enjoy facing the music will have the songs taken away from them. Sacco says these people must listen to music they don't like, because that's what they impose on others.

Court officials take surveys after each session, and if it turns out that many of the offenders happen to like a particular song, that tune is automatically removed from the playlist.

REUTERS

Celeb news, gossip show TMZ gets renewal

FOX Syndicated entertainment magazine show TMZ has been renewed for two more seasons on the Fox television stations.

The station group has cleared the half-hour Warner Bros. show through the 2010-11 season. The extension includes all of the owned-and-operated Fox affiliates, including WNYW New York, KTTV Los Angeles and WFLD Chicago.

TMZ, which debuted in September 2007, is averaging a 2.0 household rating season to date, up 11 per cent from the same period a year ago. The show is produced by Harvey Levin Prods. and ParaMedia in association with Telepictures.

REUTERS

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

primetime 11/27/08

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	251	308	3	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Pagan Christ (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6	JOY	E! News	The Insider	Click ★★ (2006, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Kate Beckinsale.				X-Weighted "Amy" (CC)		News (N)
	254	-	8	M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	News (In Mandarin N)		News (In Cantonese N)		News (In Punjabi N)		Metropia
	250	321	9	CTV	etalk (CC)	Dance	CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: NY (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10	OMNI	Scrubs (CC)	According-Jim	Smallville "Odyssey" (CC)		Supernatural "Lazarus Rising"		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Survivor: Gabon (N) (CC)		The Office (CC)		The Office	The Office	News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	A Christmas Carol: The Musical ★★ (2004) Kelsey Grammer.				(:01) Eleventh Hour (CC)		News (CC)
	253	359	13	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		30 Rock	30 Rock	30 Rock	30 Rock	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Realty TV
	-	-	14	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Smallville "Odyssey" (CC)		Supernatural "Lazarus Rising"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Survivor: Gabon (N) (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(:01) Eleventh Hour (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	The Incredibles ★★★ (2004) Voices of Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter. (CC)					The Office	News (N)
	602	568	19	W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Divine Design	House	Confidential	House	Divine Design	House	Love It-List It
	288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving		(:02) Grey's Anatomy "Dream a Little Dream of Me" (CC)				KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23	KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Inspector Clouseau ★★ (1968) Alan Arkin, Delia Boccardo.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27	PBS	Auntie Mame ★★★ (1958, Comedy) Rosalind Russell, Forrest Tucker.					The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming! ★★★			
	290	382	28	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Click ★★ (2006, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Kate Beckinsale.				News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	43	PBS	Spain ... On the Road Again		Red Green	Summer Wine	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		This Old Hse.	Hometime
	296	654	34	SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	65	TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville "Odyssey" (CC)		Supernatural "Lazarus Rising"		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66	WGN	WGN News at Nine (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67	WPX	CW11 News at Ten (N) (CC)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76	STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) Life on Mars (CC)		Late Late Show	

news

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	502	390	26	NW	The Nature of Things (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things (CC)		National
	500	500	33	CNN	CNN Heroes: Tribute		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360

sports

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	407	419	22	RSP	NHL Hockey Calgary Flames at Vancouver Canucks. (Subject to Blackout)					Canucks	Sportsnet Connected		Hockey
	400	400	30	TSN	NFL Football		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		E:60 (N) (CC)		Poker Night (Taped)		SportsCentre
	411	457	49	OLN	Pilot Guides Specials (CC)		Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Commando: On the Front Line		Survivorman
	410	403	54	SCR	Score Tonight	NBA Basketball New Orleans Hornets at Denver Nuggets. (Live)					24/7		Final Score
	417	406	55	SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Wrecked	Wrecked	Wrecked	Wrecked	Wrecked	Wrecked	Wrecked
	416	409	144	GLF	Fútbol: Olympiacos vs. Benfica		Gol TV News		Soccer Cam	Hidden Story	Gol TV News		Gol TV News

family

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	552	543	25	YTV	H2O, Just Add	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	George	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic	Chicken	Code
	557	541	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56	TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch

cable variety

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	268	354	5	KNO	Leading Edge	Big Ideas	Hemingway Adventure (CC)		Art of the Heist (N) (CC)		Vertical City	Design e2	Minor Keys
	575	583	20	CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24	MM	50 Cent: Money and Power		Muchmusic Countdown (CC)			Pimp My Ride	MuchVibe (CC)		Spotlight
	600	564	25	H&G	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes on Homes (CC)		The Fix (CC)	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (CC)		The First 48 (CC)		The First 48 (CC)		The First 48 (CC)		The First 48
	628	584	32	SPKE	(6:00) TNA iMPACT! (N) (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Disorderly Conduct: Video		MANswers	MANswers	MXC
	521	560	34	TLC	Twins, Twins & Sextuplets		Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Twins, Twins & Sextuplets		Jon & Kate
	616	522	39	SHO	Painkiller Jane "The League"		ReGenesis "Talk to Him"		Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Saving Grace (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	40	BVO	(6:00) Where the Truth Lies		Law & Order "Sundown"		Without a Trace "Fallout"		I'm All Right, Jack ★★★★ (1960, Comedy)		
	601	562	41	SLC	The Biggest Loser (CC)		Rich Bride, Poor Bride (CC)		X-Weighted "Chris" (CC)		The Biggest Loser (CC)		Trading Sp
	520	505	42	DIS	MythBusters "Lead Balloon"		Daily Planet (CC)		Monster Moves		To Be Announced		
	522	506	44	HIS	NCIS "Conspiracy Theory"		Lost Worlds (CC)		Finding the Fallen (CC)		NCIS "Conspiracy Theory"		Crime Stories
	627	528	45	SPC	Chuck (CC)		Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Lost (CC)		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek
	294	650	47	TBS	Austin Powers in Goldmember ★★ (2002) Mike Myers. (CC)				Sex and-City	Sex and-City	(:10) Joe Dirt ★ (2001) David Spade. (CC)		
	619	525	48	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210 (CC)		Make	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)	Family Guy
	603	561	52	FN	Jamie's Kitchen Australia		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Challenge (CC)		Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Jamie
	626	547	57	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Colbert Christmas: Gift		Daily Show
	320	621	60	CEN	Diving Bell and the Butterfly		Days of Darkness (2007, Horror) Tom Eplin. Premiere. (CC)				Blood Diamond ★★★ (2006, Adventure) (CC)		
	581	566	101	MTV	True Life (CC)		MTV Live	After	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		True Life (CC)		MTV Live
	261	394	102	V	(6:00) Love in the Afternoon ★★★ (1957)			Recreat. Eden	Bert Rigby, You're a Fool ★★★ (1989) Robert Lindsay. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	109	MUL	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Vancouver	Kirdaar	Dheeyan Ghar	Sadabahar	Desi-Mama	Desi Rhythms	Patrol World

critics'corner

Snapshot
"C'mon, Bossy, work it!" This new episode of the series spotlighting Canadian photographers turns the lens on Rob MacInnis and his Farm Family Project, in which he uses barnyard animals as models. As he puts it, his intent is "to draw parallels between the idealization of the human form in contemporary fashion photography and the subjugation of animals by humans." No, he's not putting sheep in designer gowns, but his images are worth a look. 5 PM on BVO

The National Dog Show
Turkeys aren't the only animals in the spotlight this Thanksgiving Day, as actor John O'Hurley ("Seinfeld") hosts coverage of the Kennel Club of Philadelphia's annual event. As with most events of this type, a "Best in Show" competition will draw together the top dogs of many breeds — chosen from an overall field of more than 3,000 canines. Dog expert David Frei offers commentary. 12 PM on NBC

Daly to be a daddy
TV personality Carson Daly and girlfriend Siri Pinter are expecting their first child together in early spring. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Kevin left Britney

REVELATION Britney Spears has revealed Kevin Federline ended their marriage, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

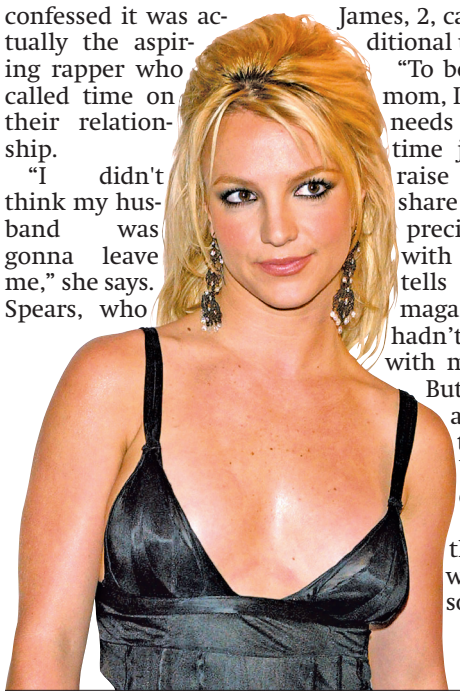
The singer filed for divorce in 2006, but has now confessed it was actually the aspiring rapper who called time on their relationship.

"I didn't think my husband was gonna leave me," she says. Spears, who recently admitted the marriage was a mistake, also revealed her sadness over the split because it means the couple's two sons, Sean Preston, 3, and Jayden James, 2, can't enjoy a traditional upbringing.

"To be a really good mom, I feel your child needs to be your full-time job. I want to raise my kids and share all of those precious moments with them," Spears tells Rolling Stone magazine. "If Kevin hadn't left, I'd be with my babies 24/7. But since they're almost like twins, they both take care of each other."

Spears has three visits a week with her sons.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Dating Clooney 'stressful,' ex says

RELATIONSHIPS Dating George Clooney was "nerve-wracking" and "stressful" as far as his model ex Sarah Larson was concerned, imdb.com reports.

The former cocktail waitress admits she loved dating the actor, but the romance wasn't always a hoot.

In her first in-depth TV interview about her relationship with Clooney, Larson tells Access Hollywood, "It was a little nerve-wracking because everybody loves George, and so, to be in the public eye like that, it was a little bit stressful. It's a lot to take in. I think I just went like a deer in the headlights. At times, I (didn't) know what to do."

The pair dated for almost a year and Larson reveals the break up was fast, and she hasn't kept in touch with Clooney. Still, Larson is determined not to kiss-and-tell.

"Out of respect for George, I know how personal he is and so I really do try to avoid as much of that as possible, because I know that he's a very personal guy and I would never want to do anything to make (him) uncomfortable."

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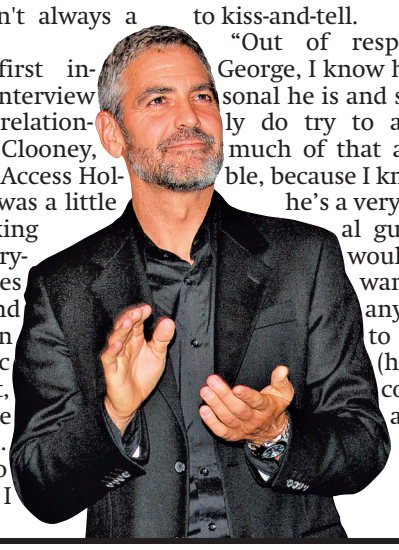

Jolie denies pregnancy

RUMOUR Angelina Jolie has been forced to deny she is pregnant again following tabloid reports suggesting the actress is expecting her fourth biological child with Brad Pitt, imdb.com reports. Speculation surrounding a reported pregnancy has dogged the couple in recent months, rumours which were denied by the Oscar winner's publicist earlier this month.

In Touch magazine has most recently claimed Jolie is pregnant again, reporting that Jolie announced the news to a waiter in a London restaurant after he tried to pour her an alcoholic drink.

But the star's representative, Geyer Kosinski, refutes the reports, telling usmagazine.com the claims are "not true."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Anderson wants to be taken seriously

IMAGE Pamela Anderson is ready to ditch her image as a pinup so she can reinvent herself as a serious actress, imdb.com reports. Now that she's 41, the former Baywatch star is reportedly eager to be a better role model for her two sons. "Pam felt her management team just saw her as a sexy pinup, and she wants to be taken more seriously," a source tells Star magazine.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

HELLO! Hot shot of the week

PETER BREGG/HELLO! CANADA

The Young and the Restless star Eric Braeden, a.k.a., the charmingly ruthless Victor Newman, recently welcomed HELLO! Canada into his luxurious Los Angeles home. While he's nothing like Victor Newman, he certainly has his alter-ego's self-discipline. "Today, I did 100 pushups," says the 67-year-old former athlete, who stays in shape by playing tennis, biking and boxing. "If I don't have much time during the day, I'll do 100 squats in the shower."

HELLO! CANADA magazine, now available on newsstands – read more at hellomagazine.ca

Mariah musical in the works

PEOPLE Mariah Carey's life story is set to be made into a musical, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer has reportedly attracted attention from a big name in the theatre industry who wants to create a Broadway show based on her.

"A huge, huge Broadway producer is interested in Mariah's story and it's in discussions," a source says.

The stage show is set to feature some of the 39-year-old's most highly publicized troubles including her divorce from Sony boss Tommy Mottola in 1997, arguments with record producers and her reported physical and emotional breakdown.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Richie, Madden to wed?

COUPLES Nicole Richie and Joel Madden are reportedly set to marry on their daughter's first birthday, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The couple, who welcomed Harlow into the world on Jan. 11, are reportedly keen to tie the knot to show their child how much they love each other.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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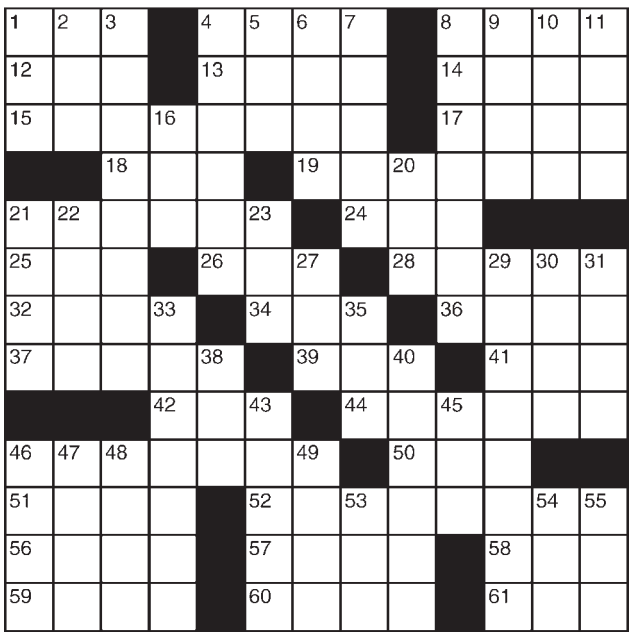
Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

9				7				8
3	5						2	1
			1		6			
	4			9			5	7
		9				6		
7	2			1			4	
			9		4			
5	6						7	4
8				3				6

Crossword across

1 Light application
4 Author Greene
8 Bean curd
12 TV lawyer Stone
13 Destroy
14 Wading bird
15 Montana city
17 Top-notch
18 Young fellow
19 Happening on 12/31
21 Sullen look
24 Genetics abbr.
25 Ply paddles
26 Grass drops
28 Unpaid bills
32 First victim
34 Pooch
36 Tragic
37 TV, newspapers, etc.
39 Crucial
41 Driver's ID (Abbr.)
42 Frequently
44 Dry red wine
46 "— of Solace"
50 Floral neckwear
51 Incite
52 Wallet
56 Mid-month date
57 Lotion additive
58 Keanu, in "The Matrix"
59 Face (Sl.)
60 Acerbic
61 Moment

Crossword down

1 Society newbie
2 Boxer Laila
3 Rose in waves
4 Led
5 Massachusetts cape
6 Nervous
7 Runner-up
8 Adorned a la Miss America
9 Orchestra member
10 Sawyer's pal
11 Secondhand
16 Legislation
20 Moreover
21 Metric measure
22 Earring site
23 Scarlet
27 Stir-fry pan
29 Oodles
30 Small combo
31 Denomination
33 Elsa of "Born Free," e.g.
35 Jewel
38 Sternward
40 "Old" Disney dog
43 Members of the brass
45 Gridiron decider
46 Witticism
47 Pakistan's language
48 A very long time
49 Venus de —
53 Costello or Ferrigno
54 Shelter
55 Elmer, to Bugs

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

4	8	1	9	6	2	3	7	5
9	3	7	5	1	4	2	6	8
6	5	2	3	7	8	4	1	9
3	1	9	2	4	6	5	8	7
5	7	6	8	3	9	1	2	4
2	4	8	7	5	1	6	9	3
7	2	3	1	9	5	8	4	6
1	9	4	6	8	3	7	5	2
8	6	5	4	2	7	9	3	1

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Lamb Cutlets with Flageolet Beans

INGREDIENTS:
2/3 cup (150mL) lamb or chicken stock
1/4 lb (110 g) fine green beans
Salt and black pepper
1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
5 tbsp (75 mL) butter
1 lemon
2 sprigs of fresh rosemary
8 lamb cutlets or lean loin chops, about 3 1/2 oz (100g) each
1 medium onion
2 cans (15oz / 425g) flageolet beans
2 cloves garlic
1 1/4 cup (300mL) dry white wine
2 tsp (10 mL) cornstarch
4 tbsp (60 mL) heavy cream
2 tbsp (25 mL) capers

METHOD:
1. Put a kettle of water on to boil. Preheat oven to low; heat stock.
2. Rinse and cut green beans into 1 in. (2.5 cm) pieces. Cook in salted boiling water until tender.
3. Put oil and 1 1/2 tbsp (25 mL) butter into frying pan and place over moderate heat. Grate lemon rind into pan. Add rosemary sprigs and increase heat.
4. Season lamb cutlets with pepper. Place in pan with sizzling butter, lower heat to moderate and fry for 5 minutes per side, until golden brown.
5. Melt remaining butter in another pan. Peel and chop onion; fry over moderate heat for 5 minutes.
6. Rinse canned beans in a colander, then drain cooked green beans into same.
7. Peel garlic, crush into onion, and cook for 30 seconds. Add beans, season and stir. Lower heat; heat through, stirring occasionally.
8. Remove cutlets and rosemary from first frying pan. Keep warm in oven.
9. Pour off fat from pan, leaving lamb residue. Add wine and juice from half the lemon; boil rapidly until reduced by half.
10. Blend cornstarch with 1 tbsp (15 mL) water and stir into stock, then into wine. Boil, reduce to simmer and stir in cream. Season, add capers and heat through. Do not boil.
11. Return cutlets and rosemary to pan, stirring in juices. Serve with mixed beans.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
History will repeat itself. A friend will shock you with future plans. An animated debate gets somebody into trouble.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Suppress your impatience about a compromise. A dream provides a solution for a rough situation. A prickly person cancels a meeting.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Delays will hamper transportation. A captivating person will excite you. Plans for the future will raise your spirits.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A woman must be set straight about the truth of a situation. A lost person arrives after a problem clears up. An untrustworthy guy tempts a friend.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Special moments will arise with a bashful guy. You'll see a stranger going wild. A friend has you wondering about a secret love.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Someone is looking forward to a last minute change. Problems with an outlaw show the need for an expert. Tolerate a weirdo's irrelevant message.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A visitor's disrespect relates to your unpopular opinion. A mocking liar begins to bore you. A man met in transit will spark interest in an idea.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A bold man has been talking about your insights. Somebody's kindness will inspire wickedness. A friendly guy reveals a secret.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A professional steps in to judge a dispute. Your vigor increases as a terrible burden goes away. You'll meet a new friend through business.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A man needs to get some relief from tension. Don't ask for favours if you want to be taken seriously. You might get more than you really wanted.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Trust your instincts if offered a second chance. Don't be sceptical about a stroke of good luck. Someone's success will open your eyes.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Someone will leave an unbearable situation. A talk with a man is a terrible thing. You can't hurry love.

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